

Illinois Early Childhood Community Partnership Profiles

Second Edition

July 1, 2013

**Community Systems Development Subcommittee,
Early Learning Council's Systems Integration and Alignment Committee**

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Background

In many communities statewide, agencies administering early childhood programs (i.e. Early/Head Start, Preschool for All, child care (home and center-based), maternal and child health, mental health, Prevention Initiative birth to three programs, and home visiting) have joined efforts to develop cross-system strategies on how best to serve families with young children. These partnerships, which are also referred to as coalitions, collaborations, councils, networks, etc. may vary by name, but the overall goal of these joint efforts is local systems development to ensure the healthy growth and optimal development of young children in the context of their families.

About the Community Systems Development Subcommittee (CSDS)

Originally known as the Community Systems Development Work Group of the Infant Toddler Committee of the Early Learning Council (ELC), this body was jointly created by the Oversight and Coordination Committee of the ELC, the Government Interagency Team of the Birth to Five Project, and the ELC's Home Visiting Task Force (HVTF). The CSDS is now a Subcommittee of the ELC's Systems Integration and Alignment Committee. The charge of the CSDS is to support local community partnerships in serving young children and their families across the state by assisting partnerships in improving coordination across early childhood programs and services at the local level.

Purpose and Scope of the Community Partnership Profiles

The CSDS produced these Profiles as a resource for the state's early childhood community partnerships to learn about each other's work and to help build a peer network of support. The Profiles also serve as a vehicle to encourage early childhood providers and advocates to connect to and strengthen existing partnerships instead of duplicating efforts.

In 2008, the first edition of the Illinois Early Childhood Community Partnership Profiles was produced by the Ounce of Prevention Fund, working in conjunction with the CSDS. The Ounce attempted to identify partnerships throughout the state that were working to create communities that were responsive to the needs of families with young children. To develop the Profiles, telephone interviews were conducted with representatives of a range of community partnerships which varied from informal to formal in structure, and ranged from specific to very broad in scope.

In the spring of 2013, the CSDS developed the second edition of the Profiles. This edition includes updates from the partnerships in the first edition, and incorporates interviews and telephone surveys of additional partnerships that were identified by CSDS members or who self-identified as early childhood partnerships. As a reference, the interview/survey tool is included at the end of this document.

For questions, updates, or additions, please contact either of the CSDS Co-Chairs:

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Addison Early Childhood Collaborative

Village of Addison

Established: 2012

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	The collaborative was created in response to unmet needs in the community, with an Early Childhood Action Partnerships mini-grant. Its purpose is to build an early childhood infrastructure with the ultimate mission of serving young children and families in the community. The collaborative addresses the needs of children ages 0-12, with a special focus on children 0-5.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The group meets monthly; decisions are made by majority vote and meetings are hosted by the School District. The Leadership Team (Executive Committee) meets every other month. While funding is being sought, there is currently no dedicated funding for the collaborative, and no paid staff.
Partners and Participants	The collaborative is reaching out to the 20+ child care providers in the village along with other agencies that provide a broad range of services to families. Active partners include the School District, Head Start, and the Child Care Resource and Referral agency. Additional partners to engage include the Village of Addison and local state representatives.
Primary Activities and Strategies	The collaborative has held community events which have been well attended, and a strategic plan is being developed which includes evaluation and assessment. The collaborative works with Illinois Action for Children to address policy issues.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, meetings.
Contact	Danette Connors YWCA Metropolitan Chicago 55 E North Ave., Glendale Heights, IL 60139 630-580-5701 danette.connors@ywcachicago.org

Advocates United for Joliet Children (AUFJC)

City of Joliet and surrounding areas

Established: 2010

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	Through Illinois Action For Children's Building Blocks II, Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) was committed to leading an organizational process for a Joliet initiative. A strategic planning session was conducted and a roadmap for a community collaboration was created, to better meet the ever growing and changing needs of Joliet children and families. AUFJC's mission is: A network of Advocate Stakeholders accountable for assessing, referring, tracking, evaluating and implementing a system of care and education to enable all Joliet children to achieve their full potential. Its focus is on children 0-8.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>AUFJC meets quarterly. It has a Leadership Team consisting of 6 entities representing early childhood and the community at large. Three Work Groups (Data, Marketing, and Advocacy), each chaired by two members of the Leadership Team, were formed to address strategies, create tasks, and plan activities to reach its goals: these Work Groups meet as needed.</p> <p>Although a collaborative of this size is in need of at least one dedicated staff member coordinating all of its activities, AUFJC has not found any support for this. AUFJC continues to depend on the pro bono assistance of its members and in large part the assistance of its local CCR&R, which currently serves as its administrative home.</p>
Partners and Participants	AUFJC is comprised of a broad spectrum of members from various backgrounds including: early care and education, social work, higher education, local government, business, healthcare, and parents. AUFJC currently has more than 50 members, including the LIC, CCR&R, and AOK Network, and MOAs are updated annually. AUFJC is looking to expand our engagement of non-EC partners, including businesses and city government.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>AUFJC's strategies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate action planning to align, integrate and maximize the effectiveness of services and supports for young children. • Conduct analysis, evaluation and reporting on the effectiveness of the services and supports provided to young children. • Organize communication and advocacy to enhance resources, improve quality and increase family awareness and use of services and supports. • Demand shared public accountability for the success of young children from providers of services and supports, families, public officials and the community as a whole. <p>Partnership activities include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community public education events, including a 2012 city-wide Literacy Campaign (Book Fair, Book Drive, and distribution of books and literacy tip sheets courtesy of IELC), Joliet’s yearly Family Fun Fest, a 2012 “Roadshow with Illinois Action For Children (IAFC) focusing on play-based learning, a “Play Forum”, participation in the annual Youth Forum, and hosting several VOICES Symposiums. A video was created for AUFJC featuring parents of young children speaking on various topics. Messaging is planned on electronic billboards throughout the city surrounding early childhood services and experiences. In addition, AUFJC organized a Fall Connections event featuring a booklet that offered information on collaboration members and data relating to the impact of their work throughout the Joliet community. • Training opportunities, including a day of trainings from Early Childhood, School Age and Youth. • Assisting the AOK Network in developing a seamless system of referrals. • Distributing over 3,000 literacy resources; members have hosted several literacy events throughout the community that have contributed to family leadership development. • Filling service gaps: A major win for the community has been the awarding of a \$3.1 million Early Childhood Construction Grant to One Hope United. This award is a product of the hard work and support of local advocates and partnerships to facilitate the sale of an old, unused school property, and to rehabilitate it into a environmentally-friendly high-quality early-learning environment. • Advocacy efforts, including legislative breakfasts and an October 2012 luncheon for early childhood leaders, local politicians, and parents. This luncheon was used to demonstrate the need for early childhood funding and programming, as well as to educate politicians about local early childhood environments. CCR&R partners with IAFC on local advocacy. Issues are brought to AUFJC’s Advocacy Work Group, who works closely with local policy makers to provide input on statewide early childhood policy work. • Data collection: Through the pro bono services of CCR&R’s Data Coordinator, AUFJC surveys the school readiness of several area EC programs in collaboration with Joliet PSD #86; these data serve as a driver of AUFJC’s work. A data template was created in the spring of 2011, and the compilation of data across various sources was centralized in one place, organized by category and updated yearly. A report on local systems and the status of children and families is due in 2013. • Evaluation: AUFJC’s evaluates its work through data collection and surveys, and will be re-evaluating its function and impact along with its strategic plan, which is now three years old.
Communication Mechanisms	AUFJC’s new website will be launched soon, and Facebook is also used.

Contact	Chris Bzdon Childcare Resource and Referral 801 N. Larkin Ave., Suite 202 Joliet, IL 60435 815.741.1163 ext 222 CBzdon@childcarehelp.com www.aufjc.org
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All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Networks

Established: January 2000

An AOK Network exists in each of the following geographic areas:

Adams County	McHenry County	Tazewell County
Carroll County	McLean County	Town of Cicero
Chicago Southeast	Rock Island County	Wabash / Edwards County
Chicago West	St. Clair County	Will County
Kane County	Stephenson County	

<p>Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership</p>	<p>The All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network is a collaborative effort between the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois State Board of Education, local health departments, family members, and other local agencies serving expecting parents, children birth to five and their parents/caregivers.</p> <p><u>Mission:</u> The All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks are community-based collaborations committed to developing a high- quality, well-coordinated, easily accessible system of services and supports where babies are born healthy, children maintain physical and emotional health, children enter school ready to learn, families are connected to the services they need, and parents are leaders in their families and communities.</p> <p><u>Goal:</u></p> <p>To generate greater collective impact for the positive growth, development and well-being of children birth to five by developing system building strategies that will result in system impacts and child and family outcomes:</p> <p>System Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families have Access to the services and supports they want and need. • Families benefit from high Quality services and supports. • Families experience Equity in the services and supports they access. • Families’ needs for services and supports match the Capacity of the system to meet those needs. • Families experience a high-level of Satisfaction with the system of services and supports. <p>Child and Family Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are born healthy. • Children maintain physical and emotional health and well-being. • Children enter school ready to learn. • Parents are connected to the services they want and need. • Parents are leaders.
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Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>Each Network consists of a local coordinator and a wide range of stakeholders representing health, mental health, early care and learning, social services, family support, faith-based organizations, families and more. These stakeholders share responsibility for planning, decision-making, action and accountability.</p> <p>A community assessment and strategic plan is developed and implemented by each Network.</p> <p>Twelve of the Networks receive funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services and two Networks are funded by the Illinois State Board of Education.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>The specific composition of each Network varies from community to community. Generally, members include representatives of the following local systems: health, mental health, child care, early learning, education, family support, social services, faith-based organizations, parents, advocacy, employers, and local government.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>AOK Networks develops strategic initiatives in three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Capacity: their competence and perseverance to carry out their work proactively and in response to changes locally and beyond through collaboration, adaptation, and self-renewal. • System-Building Strategies: Early Identification, Public Information and Education, Information and Referral, Coordination of Care, Service Needs and Utilization, Workforce Staffing and Development, and Policy. • Local Priority: Any local priority related to the health and well-being of expecting parents and families with children birth to five. <p>AOK Networks develop specific objectives and benchmarks for each strategic initiative.</p> <p>Each of the 14 AOK Networks has developed and implemented a strategic plan that addresses most, if not all, of the following key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop network capacity through clarity of purpose, collaborative leadership and engagement, and function and structure • Assess the needs of young children and their families • Link children and their families with appropriate services • Facilitate the coordination of services and elimination of service gaps • Inform the community about issues affecting families with young children • Identify and better understand the services for families with young children need and use • Address the training needs of people who work with expectant parents and families with young children

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the accessibility and capacity of the system of services for young children and their families • Provide leadership for policy development to assure the health of young children and their families • Assist network partners in establishing a family-focused, strength-based, culturally competent approach in their service. • Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers of families with young children to be leaders in their families, the Early Childhood System and their communities.
Communication Mechanisms	The network coordinators meet three times a year for peer-to-peer learning and state-level technical assistance. Within each Network, coordinators meet with community partners on a regular and ongoing basis in the form of monthly or bi-monthly Network meetings, committees and/or workgroups.
Contact	<p>Ana Maria Accove Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Family and Community Services 401 S. Clinton Chicago, IL 60607 312-793-2748 AnaMaria.Accove@illinois.gov http://www.aoknetworks.org</p>

Austin Childcare Provider Network (ACPN)

North Lawndale, Maywood, Bellwood, Hyde Park and Garfield

Established: 1998

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	The Network's focus is to provide educational opportunities to childcare providers who serve families with children from birth to 12. Our goal is to build the capacity of local childcare providers and ultimately improve the quality of early education and care in our target communities.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Network has three staff members, the executive director, an administrative support person and a case manager. The Network is a non-profit organization governed by a board and is administratively housed in the Austin Community.</p> <p>The Network conducts yearly surveys to providers and incorporates the results into its current work and in the strategic plan discussions. The Network convenes every two years to update the strategic plan.</p> <p>The Network relies on the generous support of private and public partners, including HSBC, Country Financial, JP Morgan Chase, and the City of Chicago.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Approximately 1,000 children between the ages of birth to 12 are directly served by providers in the network. Over 100 licensed childcare providers and 15 child care centers are enrolled as members of ACPN.</p> <p>The Network also partners with Chicago City Colleges to provide early childhood education classes and college level course work for the providers. We also partner with Chicago Public Schools to provide practicum course internship opportunities in Head Start classrooms located in CPS. We have also partnered with CPS to enroll 3-5 year family childcare clients in school-based Head Start programs.</p> <p>Most recently, the Network has partnered with Austin Coming Together, as a member of its Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC). The Network works with other member of the AECC to create and sustain a seamless, accessible and high quality system of support for young children and families in the Austin community.</p> <p>Other partners include; Action for Children, local Child Care Resource and Referral Networks, Local Interagency Council's, Easter Seals, United Way, Good City, Erikson Institute, Bethel New Life, UIC, DePaul University, Dominican University & Voices For Illinois Children.</p>

Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>Technical assistance to providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation • QRIS training • Workshops and special events that develop programs for childcare providers and their staff to ensure that the childcare workforce is trained in developmentally appropriate practices. • Financial Literacy Training and Business Planning <p>This center provides access to state of the art computers that are accessible to the Network members as well as to the community at large. ACPN facilitates a job training program for TANF clients and other individuals and GED classes will also take place at the center and at a local CPS school. Access to the internet is also available to the community and the Network providers who are continuing their education at ACPN and a local CPS school. Chase Manhattan provides funding to support professional development training and research data gathering.</p> <p>Other services offered by the Network include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on upgrading a group child care • Training on developing effective after school programs • Training on payroll and tax workshops • Childcare career leader • Training on marketing your business effectively • College credit classes in the community • Individual development account matched savings program
Communication Mechanisms	<p>The Network meets face-to-face in quarterly meetings and maintains contact monthly through newsletters.</p>
Contact	<p>Ruth Kimble President and Founder Austin Childcare Provider Network 5701 W. Division Avenue Chicago, IL 60651 773-379-7627 Quinlan3@prodigy.net www.austinchildcareprovidersnet.org</p>

Austin Early Childhood Collaborative

The Austin community area in the City of Chicago

Established: 2013

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>Local agencies had been working with the Erikson Institute, which presented a community assessment in September to kick off a series of conversations about Austin's early childhood system. In November, they received an Early Childhood Action Partnership grant and formally started the collaborative with consensus-building and development of a vision and purpose:</p> <p>Vision: A community that is committed to enriching the whole child from birth to age eight and their families.</p> <p>Purpose: To create and sustain a seamless, accessible, and high quality system of support for young children and their families</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Chair is elected by the member agencies. The group meets monthly and decisions are made by informal consensus. Currently, there is a part-time coordinator who works with the Chair to facilitate meetings and coordinate activities. The staff is housed at Austin Coming Together (a non-profit organization). The collaborative's current budget is about \$20,000 and they are in the process of applying for additional funds.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Participants include local child care providers, Bethel New Life, Childserv, Community Organizing and Family Issues, the local Chicago Public Schools elementary school network, Adler School of Professional Psychology, UIC College of Education, UI Extension School, Illinois Action for Children, and Voices for Illinois Children. The collaborative is also planning to engage health care providers and parents.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The collaborative has developed a community service inventory, and published a resource directory that was distributed to elementary and pre-K teachers to hand out on report card pick-up day. They also held an appreciation event for teachers at a local elementary school with whom they plan to partner. The collaborative is working on a strategic plan for systems improvement. Illinois Action for Children and Voices for Illinois Children will be important avenues for policy advocacy.</p>
Communication Mechanisms	<p>The collaborative has a newly created website, and is also using Facebook and Twitter.</p>
Contact	<p>Andrew Born Austin Coming Together 5049 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60644 aborn@austincomingtogether.org https://sites.google.com/a/austincomingtogether.org/austin-early-childhood-collaborative/</p>

Champaign County Birth to Six Council

Champaign County

Established: 1990's

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>The Birth to 5 Council created the Local Interagency Agreement which was signed by all of the school districts (EC only), Developmental Services Center, and Head Start. Child and Family Connections was added later to the agreement when they were formed by the state. The Council also created a community resource book for providers, participated in community events, and presented information to families about program options within the community. In 2008, the Birth to 5 Council merged with the United Way Success By Six, becoming the Birth To Six Council.</p> <p>The Council works to identify children age birth to six with or at risk of physical, social/emotional, and/or developmental needs. The Council recognizes the role of the family as the primary influence in promoting a child's development, and its mission is to coordinate a comprehensive family-centered system of support in Champaign County for families with young children, including those with or at risk of physical, social/emotional, and/or developmental needs.</p> <p>The Birth to Six Council envisions families, independent providers, agencies, and concerned community members working together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify children age birth to six with or at risk of physical, social/emotional, and/or developmental needs • Ensure access to services • Raise public awareness • Advocate for families with young children including those with or at risk of physical, social/emotional, and/or developmental needs • Recruit knowledgeable and skilled providers • Promote interagency collaboration • Support local efforts to provide family-centered services • Promote high quality services <p>This continued collaborative effort is essential to the success of the local system in terms of service facilitation and delivery, family support and advocacy, system planning and funding.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Council meets 10 times a year, usually on the third Monday of each month. Bylaws are on its website, and the Council operates through Robert's Rules.</p> <p>Our only dedicated staff is the LIC Coordinator, who provides about 10 hours a week to the Council, assisting with agendas, communications, minutes, attendance, and committee work. There is about \$1,000 per year dedicated to Council activities from Child and Family Connections (for 0-3 activities only).</p>

Partners and Participants	<p>Active members include Head Start, the CFC, the EI Clearinghouse, Champaign Public Library, United Way, and PNC Bank, the County Health Department, Development Service Center, some school districts, The LIC Coordinator staffs the Council, and the local CCR&R is an active member; their staff heads the Public Awareness/ Technology Committee. The Council is seeking to increase participation from the medical community, parents/families of young children, local school districts, and the Regional Office of Education, which covers the county's more rural schools. There are MOAs for Council members. The Council has recently partnered with Crisis Nursery to provide child care to increase parent and family participation at our meetings.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The Council's activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events including: Kindergarten Readiness Events and screening information for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The Council also supports (either through a small sponsorship or volunteers) many events headed by member organizations. • Trainings, including parent/family trainings held in partnership with Family Matters, and parent trainings offered by the LIC Coordinator. • Community resource book: the Service Providers for English Language Learners (SPELL) Initiative is currently working on a resource book for 2013-2014. • Needs assessment: The SPELL initiative aims to conduct a needs assessment in January 2014. Service gaps are discussed by Council from time to time (lack of speech therapy services, developmental therapists, translation services etc). • Advocacy: The Council has had a guest presentation address advocacy for state provider payments.
Communication Mechanisms	<p>The Council has an email listserv, website, and a facebook page.</p>
Contact	<p>Lisa Ellis, Co-Chair, lisa.ellisDT@gmail.com Teresa O'Connor, Co-Chair, ihelpfamiliesandkids@yahoo.com Kim Woolridge, LIC Coordinator, cfcfamilies16@gmail.com http://ccbirthto6.org/ https://www.facebook.com/#!/ccbirthto6</p>

Child Abuse Prevention Development Project

Statewide Initiative

Established: January 2009

<p>Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership</p>	<p>This program envisions a broad based child abuse prevention effort promoting the health and wellbeing of children and families in Illinois by supporting communities and service providers in providing effective and coordinated education, treatment, and prevention services; and by educating parents and caregivers to develop positive parenting techniques and provide safe and nurturing environments for their children.</p> <p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish, support, and network local Child Abuse Prevention Coalitions throughout the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating local services • Planning public awareness activities • Addressing local child abuse issues • Securing necessary resources 2. Promote child sexual abuse prevention, education and awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing training to parents, caregivers, professionals, volunteers, and organizations using the <i>Stewards of Children</i> curriculum and the 7 Steps to preventing child sexual abuse • Collaborating efforts with the Illinois Child Advocacy Center • Supporting Erin's Law • Providing public awareness and educational material 3. Infant care and safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide <i>Happiest Baby on the Block</i> training to new and expectant parents and other caregivers, and promoting the development of a statewide network of certified trainers. • Providing a range of public awareness and educational activities addressing Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention and the promotion of safe sleep environments 4. Address the issue of substance abuse as it relates to child abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating cross training and technical assistance to substance abuse treatment providers, DCFS, and POS (Purchase of Service) social service providers • Helping to establish and support DCFS/DASA Youth Provider Work Groups • Addressing the methamphetamine issue with training, educational materials, and support for community coalitions • Providing training and literature on the effects of substance abuse on the family
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	<p>5. Address the issue of family violence as it relates to child abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating cross training and technical assistance to family violence services and other providers, organizations, and groups throughout the state • Helping to maintain, support, and be a resource to the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils • Providing specific training and literature on the effects of domestic violence on children <p>6. Provide statewide leadership for Child Abuse Prevention Month and other prevention awareness activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating April Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in the state of Illinois by convening key leaders, setting up media kick-off events, producing a statewide calendar of events, promoting community awareness campaigns, and conducting an awards program for community prevention campaigns • Addressing child abuse and neglect and promoting child and family well-being through training, technical assistance, resources, and referral <p>7. Promote Home Visitation Programs for new parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate with DCFS, DHS, Voices for Illinois Children, Ounce of Prevention Fund, and others as a member of the Strong Foundations project to build a state infrastructure around three models of evidenced-based home visitation programs • Assisting communities interested in starting a Home Visitation program for new parents • Serving on the Healthy Families Illinois governance body • Providing staff support to the six Healthy Families Illinois regional networking groups • Administering a fund that assists Healthy Families Illinois programs with the cost of credentialing and affiliation fees
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Child Abuse Prevention Development Project is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services through funding from the federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Funds.</p> <p>Services are provided statewide by project staff which includes four full time Prevention Specialists, two part time Prevention Associates, a Program Director, and services of the Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Executive Director, Communications and Development Director, and Office Manager.</p> <p>The program is governed and monitored by Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Prevent Child Abuse Illinois has many formal and informal partner relationships with agencies and programs across the state. Program staff and the director work with regional and state Child Advocacy Centers, Voices for Illinois Children,</p>

	<p>the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Parents Care and Share, Healthy Families Illinois, Parents as Teachers. Head Start and Early Head Start, the Illinois Respite Coalition, Children's Mental Health Partnership, Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Circle of Parents, Prevent Child Abuse America, and many other state and national organizations too numerous to list. The Project Director and Prevention Specialists have specifically established relationships with local POS, domestic violence, substance abuse, community childcare, and related child welfare agencies, programs and services.</p> <p>Through this project, PCA Illinois has established a <i>Happiest Baby on the Block</i> certified educator network utilizing a signed letter of agreement which outlines benefits and responsibilities for each party. The network is made up of home visiting, early childhood education, and others from across the state.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>This program provides primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention services. Services are provided through public awareness campaigns, literature distribution, community education, resource and referral assistance, technical assistance support for agencies and programs, and direct client/consumer training including an annual statewide conference.</p> <p>Services for this grant are being provided through 7 key program areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Prevention Coalitions • Preventing child sexual abuse • Promoting infant care and safety • Addressing the connection between substance abuse and child abuse • Addressing the connection between family violence and child abuse • Child Abuse Prevention Month Leadership and Prevention Awareness Activities • Promoting home visitation programs for new parents <p>Project staff provide training and in-services, serve on workgroups and steering committees, and provide technical assistance when requested. In addition, we work closely with the state and regional Child Care Resource and Referral Network and are registered specialty trainers with the Gateways to Opportunity Training Registry for early childhood educators. Project staff regularly provide training and resources for Head Start, the Association for the Education of Young Children, home visitors, child care providers and other early childhood educators throughout the state.</p>
Communication Mechanisms	<p>This program utilizes multiple forms of communication including email, email blasts, e-newsletters, social media (including a Facebook page and Twitter account through Prevent Child Abuse Illinois), dedicated pages on the Prevent Child Abuse Illinois website, literature distribution, PowerPoint presentations and material distribution.</p>

Contact	Denise McCaffrey Director, Prevention Awareness and Education Child Abuse Prevention Development Project Prevent Child Abuse Illinois 528 South Fifth Street, Ste 211, Springfield, IL 62701 (217) 522-1129 dmccaffrey@preventchildabuseillinois.org www.preventchildabuseillinois.org
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Collaboration for Early Childhood

Oak Park, Illinois

Established: 2002

<p>Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership</p>	<p>The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a public/private partnership that leverages the resources of more than 60 local agencies to promote the development of a comprehensive, community-wide system of high-quality programs and services to foster physical, cognitive and social-emotional development during the critical first five years of life.</p> <p>As part of the strategic planning process engaged in during 2008-2009, the Collaboration adopted benchmarks for the Oak Park and River Forest Early Childhood System. The benchmarks were chosen because they are relevant, measurable and provide data that can be used and acted upon to further system development and better prepare children for success in school and in life. The benchmarks allow for targets and dates to be specified. The Collaboration will define these measures in increasing increments, based on funding levels. Upon establishing a baseline, all benchmarks can be read as: <i>By Year Y, X% of children will...</i></p> <p>Child Outcomes: Every child arrives at kindergarten healthy, safe, ready to succeed, eager to learn.</p> <p><i>Benchmarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children identified through screening as needing assessment and or services receive them. • Children in Oak Park Preschool for All and Head Start programs demonstrate age-appropriate proficiency in each domain of development in accordance with the Illinois Early Learning Standards. • Children entering kindergarten demonstrate age-appropriate proficiency in the kindergarten readiness assessment administered by District 97. <p>Service Delivery Outcomes: Parents and children receive the early childhood care and education and parenting education and support services they need.</p> <p><i>Benchmarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten students with Free or Reduced Price Lunch assistance have a history of participation in Preschool for All/ Head Start, a National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) accredited program or a program meeting the Illinois Quality Rating System of 3 or 4. • Teen parents and families receiving All Kids Level 1 health insurance for their child under age 3 receive referral to intensive parent education program. • Referred parents participate in the intensive parent education program. • Kindergarten/1st grade students with Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) have documentation of receiving services in early childhood (if they lived in
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	<p>Oak Park during their early childhood years).</p> <p>System Outcomes: Oak Park River Forest has a high quality, coordinated early childhood system.</p> <p><i>Benchmarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families with children under age five are included in the voluntary database and receive developmental information and an early childhood resource directory. • Teachers and directors in Oak Park and River Forest early childhood programs have above minimum state educational requirements for their roles. • Teachers and child care providers have more than the state-mandated 15 documented hours of continuing professional development each year. • Preschools and child care centers and homes are engaged in the Illinois Quality Rating System, and improve their scores each year.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Collaboration for Early Childhood is incorporated as a non-profit organization. It has on one full time staff member, an executive director and three part time staff members, a professional development coordinator (30 hours a week); administrative assistant (20 hours a week) and a data entry clerk (10 hours a week).</p> <p>The Collaboration is led by a Board of Directors and a Collaboration Council. The Collaboration remains a consensus-based organization with a Board of Directors who brings forth major decisions for Collaboration Council approval. Any measures that do not gain consensus are either worked on to address identified concerns, or if a decision is time sensitive, the Board is authorized to make the decision. The organization's bylaws describe the organizational structure and procedures for resolving disagreements.</p> <p>The Collaboration Council consists of members from all participating jurisdictions and others from the early childhood field and the public at-large. The Collaboration does not require any contributions from participants.</p> <p>This year, the Collaboration is expecting \$149,000 from grants, gifts, corporations and individuals. The remainder of the funding (\$127,000) comes from jurisdictions that have contractual arrangements with the Collaboration to provide services. The organization receives considerable volunteer support and pro bono professional services. The operating budget for fiscal year is \$293,000.</p> <p>In April 2013, the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 approved a contract for services with the Collaboration for Early Childhood to establish a comprehensive high quality system of services through a three-year ramp-up period beginning in fiscal year July 2013. The fiscal year 2014 operating budget will be \$813,000, ramping up to nearly \$1,500,000 in July 2016.</p>

Partners and Participants	<p>All six jurisdictions in Oak Park jurisdictions participate in the Collaboration for Early Childhood: the Village of Oak Park, District 97, District 200, Oak Park Township, Oak Park Public Library and Park District of Oak Park. In addition to the jurisdictions, the Collaboration's partners include a wide range of early childhood service providers and stakeholders. The Collaboration serves as the local "table" at which virtually all stakeholders in the early childhood system meet regularly to assess need, coordinate service delivery, and identify critical gaps.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The work of the Collaboration is organized around four key areas.</p> <p>Developmental Screening: The Collaboration works with area pediatricians, family practice physicians and preschool and child care providers promote universal developmental screening for children birth to five. The Collaboration also provides hearing and vision screening to more than 1,000 preschool children, and works with all providers to ensure that children who need further assessment and services receive them.</p> <p>Professional Development: The Collaboration works to increase the professional qualifications and skills of early care and education teachers and family child care providers through participation in professional development activities, college-level classes, and statewide quality enhancement initiatives like Great START, the Quality Counts Quality Rating System and Gateways to Opportunity. The Collaboration also fosters professional communities through its Directors Round Table and Family Child Care Provider Round Table.</p> <p>Parent information and Support: The Collaboration seeks to ensure that every at-risk family is offered intensive parent education services, that all parents have opportunities to participate in a parent group or network and that every parent has information about child development and services available in the community.</p> <p>Public Preschool Coordination: The Collaboration works with the three Preschool for All agencies and Head Start to find and enroll all at-risk children in Oak Park in high-quality preschool (part-day or enriched, full-day program). It also provides technical support, training, and mentoring to ensure that all publicly funded preschool programs in Oak Park provide the educational experience needed for children to arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.</p> <p>To monitor its progress, and ensure that its approach is impactful, the Collaboration is developing a voluntary database with appropriate security features to house information about Oak Park's very youngest children, to track service usage, identify any shortages and underused services, track the coordination and integration of services and to allow for assessment data collection and impact analysis. The initial phase of the development of the database was completed in winter 2012.</p>

Communication Mechanisms	<p>The Collaboration uses multiple modes of communications to each of its constituencies and is expanding these efforts as it grows.</p> <p>The Collaboration uses local media outlets, blogs, the communication vehicles of its partners, ads, flyers, posters, local and organizational email groups and its own email groups to inform its constituencies about activities and news related to early childhood. The Collaboration also hosts a robust website and has an active Face Book page. Collaboration staff maintain phone and email communication with directors, providers, educators, jurisdictions, etc. on a daily basis, building connections with all in the community.</p> <p>The Collaboration Council and Board of Directors are emailed frequently and will soon have their own section on the Collaboration website.</p>
Contact	<p>Carolyn Newberry Schwartz Executive Director Collaboration for Early Childhood 123 Madison Street, Room 209, Oak Park, Illinois 60302 708-613-6122 cnewberry@collab4kids.org http://www.collab4kids.org</p>

Crossroads Coalition

Chicago Heights

Established: 1998

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>Crossroads Coalition was established in 1998 by Aunt Martha’s Youth Service Center Inc., St. James Hospital, and Cook County Department of Public Health to serve as an advisory group to address maternal and child healthcare issues. In 2004, Crossroads Coalition was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based coalition. Today, Crossroads is a collaboration of more than 95 health, community and faith-based organizations including colleges, government, social services, and mental health providers with a vision of improved health status for the diverse residents of South Suburban Chicago.</p> <p>For the past eight years, Crossroads Coalition has employed a broad definition of “health” in its work to include social, economic, psychological, institutional, and environmental variables. Therefore, the work of Crossroads Coalition to reduce health disparities focuses on policy change, systems and environmental change, and individual behavioral change. Consequently, the work of Crossroads Coalition has positively impacted thousands of individuals that are highly affected by the burden of chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, mental illness, substance abuse, asthma, HIV/AIDS, and obesity.</p> <p>The mission of Crossroads Coalition is to form strategic alliances with individuals and organizations to resource communities, enhance community capacity, and develop outcome-based programs to improve the health status of diverse South Suburban Cook County communities and beyond.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Board is composed of a cross-section of representatives from community health and social care services such as the Cook County Department of Public Health, Grand Prairie Mental Health Services, the Hispanic Leadership Council, Southland Ministerial Health Network, Governors State University, Healthcare Consortium of Illinois (an 80-member partnership advocacy group), Illinois Citizens for the Disabled and Aunt Martha’s Federally Qualified Health Center. Other hospitals, personnel and organizations attend the monthly meeting. Members will discuss an issue, talk about a plan of action and reach a consensus on next steps. A strategic plan is currently being developed.</p> <p>Crossroads Coalition staff, volunteers, and board members all have significant years of health and social service delivery experience and have worked with key health providers in a broad range of health initiatives. Collectively, they have more than 100 years of experience engaging underserved minority communities that are disproportionately impacted by the burdens of chronic disease.</p>

Partners and Participants	<p>The Crossroads Coalition involves the collaboration of many partners from different sectors including, but not limited to, community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), hospitals, health centers, law enforcement, health insurance companies, businesses, schools, and universities. Crossroads Coalition has also established strong working and supportive relationships with state, county, and federal departments.</p> <p>In its efforts to address health disparities, Crossroads created the Southland Ministerial Health Network in 2004. The Southland Ministerial Health Network's mission is to build capacity, networking and funding opportunities, and increase program sustainability. The Network consists of 25 faith-based organizations engaged in social service delivery in nine townships in south Cook County. The churches range in size from 50 to 4,000 congregational members.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy – Crossroads Coalition engages in advocacy efforts around a variety of health issues. A primary focus of the organization's advocacy work has been addressing the issues of the uninsured and underinsured. The organization is also instrumental in developing cultural sensitization to the issues of health disparities from the African American and Hispanic perspectives to the larger health care delivery "safety net" system and to community members. The advocacy efforts have impacted legislative policy and program, and drawn attention to the health needs in South Suburban Cook County and beyond. • Health Literacy – Crossroads Coalition provides health literacy workshops tailored to the needs of low-income, non-whites, who are disproportionately more likely to have low health literacy. These health literacy workshops provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to understand health risks, engage in healthy lifestyle practices, understand health information, know how to seek medical care, and use preventive measures such as screenings. Through workshops, forums, and screenings, Crossroads Coalition is working to improve the health literacy of individuals related to various chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. • Chronic Disease Self-Management – Crossroads Coalitions in partnership with faith communities offer skill-building workshops to help individuals with a chronic condition learn to manage their condition and their overall health. • Pandemic Influenza Preparedness - Opening Doors/Apriendo pandemic influenza outreach program promotes and encourages influenza prevention among at-risk minority populations in South Suburban Cook County communities through effective community and faith-based collaborations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Seminars - As an active leader in addressing health care disparities, Crossroads Coalition regularly coordinates a wide variety of community health activities such as trainings, forums, workshops, seminars, and screenings for populations and genders, especially disadvantaged African Americans and Hispanics.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, phone.
Contact	<p>Jennifer Artis 30 East 15th St., Suite 405, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708) 756-1000 x 53497 Jennifer.Artis@franciscanalliance.org</p>

Decatur Area Education Coalition (EdCo)

Macon County

Established: 2007

Focus, Goals and Objectives of Partnership	<p>EdCo was formed as a committee of the Community Foundation of Macon County, after a community survey uncovered a major concern about education in our community. Decatur is a “rust belt” city that has seen its population decline as jobs have been eliminated due to technology, the depressed economy, and outsourcing. This has left Decatur with a high poverty urban profile in its schools.</p> <p>At the time of EdCo’s founding, a strong early childhood network was already in existence and joined the Education Coalition fully formed, expanding to include any stakeholders who were not involved previously. Since its initial creation, the scope of the goals has become more inclusive, i.e., birth to re-careering, and an inclusive system has been established to garner the input of citizens, practitioners, academics, the business community, and educators. EdCo discussions follow a script that lead to questions for our research and data collection to ensure that the community is clear about root causes before we build a collaborative response.</p> <p>EdCo is a Cradle to Career initiative around community improvement through education. Its mission is to mobilize the community to improve Decatur/Macon County through education. Its vision: Decatur/Macon County is nationally recognized for community improvement through education at all levels. EdCo focuses on three goals: Kindergarten Readiness, Grade-to-Grade Readiness, and College and Career Readiness</p> <p>EdCo believes that the extraordinary challenge of helping all children learn at high levels and become prepared for life-long success demands an increased role for business, educators, parents and others outside the school room. The extraordinary reward of meeting this challenge is an improved quality of life for Decatur and Macon County residents and increased prosperity for all in the region.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>EdCo is a committee of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Macon County. EdCo’s Chair and two other Steering Committee members sit on the Community Foundation Board, which meets monthly.</p> <p>Twelve groups within EdCo meet every other month, and the whole community is invited quarterly. Communities of practice meet as desired, and special meetings of practitioners are invited on an as needed basis to inform the collaborative. For example, Pre-School and Kindergarten teachers met to discuss what “readiness” looks like. EdCo used their recommendations to make a plan for a “full court press” to address Kindergarten Readiness throughout the community.</p> <p>EdCo has 5 staff members. The Strive Network of Cradle to Career organizations recommends the Executive Director, a Facilitator, and a Data</p>

	<p>Analyst. In addition, there is a Program Manager and a Communication Coordinator. The Facilitator schedules meetings, leads discussions, and documents work.</p> <p>The Program Manager carries out initiatives related to the Communities of Practice (Early Childhood Education, Out of School Providers and Volunteers) and interfaces with organizations to provide tools developed collaboratively. This includes building new content resources for website. The Communication Coordinator staffs the front desk, communicates with members, reviews the website, interfaces with the PR firm, and handles meeting logistics.</p> <p>The annual budget is around \$500,000; EdCo is funded through an endowment within the Community Foundation. Any additional funds for initiatives are raised through the Foundation.</p> <p>EdCo has established a system using the Collective Impact Model. When members collaborate on programming, MOUs are developed. Any programming is in the form of measurable collaborative pilots, for the purpose of finding new, more effective ways to get to better outcomes. While EdCo also provides resources for community groups, such as print materials and games to prepare children, it is focused more on facilitating the conversations that lead to change.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>EdCo has more than 100 groups including individuals, agencies, organizations and businesses in our “Collaboratives,” who, over the latter six months of 2012, logged more than 15,000 hours in meetings to define issues related to education. Partners include all community groups dealing with early childhood through re-careering and adult basic skills, including: educators, health care providers, social service, law enforcement, community college, Millikin University, businesses, out of school providers (Big Bros/Big Sis, Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Old King’s Orchard Neighborhood Center, the Children’s’ Museum, etc.). EdCo is seeking to strengthen partnerships with businesses.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>EdCo’s strategic plan will be revisited this year. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education: EdCo has a Communication Committee to develop messaging around key issues at key times of year, e.g., Kindergarten Readiness, Early Childhood Development. EdCo also holds quarterly meetings with guest speakers to discuss dynamics in education (these are open to the community). • Family programs: EdCo co-administers the 21st Century grant with the school system, with a unique format that begins in junior high school, taking kids through the six years to graduation for tutoring, out of school provider programming, and family events on weekends. EdCo is working with the city to structure free shuttles on weekends to community destinations throughout the summer, with curriculum at the destinations for parents and kids to learn together.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mapping: EdCo has an initiative to improve early childhood education from 0-5, which includes mapping that population relative to pre-schools, and identifying how many children there are. A similar map will be constructed to identify out of school providers against the teenage population. • Community resources: EdCo is producing a resource guide for realtors and HR professionals who bring new people into the community. In addition, EdCo released a “Kindergarten Readiness” Calendar with age appropriate activities and school registration information (from birth to 5 years). EdCo has also produced and distributed a “Kindergarten Checklist” for healthcare providers, home daycare providers, and home schoolers. This checklist provides contact information for resources needed to get a child ready for Kindergarten, as well as a list of vocabulary words a child should be able to understand by the time they enter Kindergarten. • Training: EdCo hosts Communities of Practice as well as Collaborative groups. The Communities of Practice include Out of School Providers and Pre-School Providers; EdCo is working on a plan to raise credibility through continuing education and certification. EdCo also hosts a Community of Practice for organizations that use volunteers. • Enhancing collaboration: As education funding is drying up, there is a greater need to consolidate and cooperate. Unfortunately, some of the programs that are cut are critical to the community, but do not net immediately measurable results for donors (e.g., family literacy). Practitioners discuss ways to meet the needs of their clients through collaboration among services providers. Unfortunately, many EC funding systems reward numbers served, and in some cases providers have to compete for the same families to keep their funding. In response, some families take advantage of the competition to gain services beyond their needs. When providers work together around the table, they are able to bring out these dynamics and talk about ways to collaborate. Consolidation and/or differentiation of services should be the result. • Family leadership development: Baby TALK, the 21st Century program, the YMCA Caregiver Training grant, and our multifaceted plan to impact the EC population all address this. MIECHV, the Health Department and others also have this component within their services. • Advocacy: EdCo works with Advance Illinois and Voices for Illinois Children, and meets with legislators to share what’s going on in the community. • Technical assistance: EdCo works with providers on systems and outcome analyses. • Evaluation: EdCo is setting up a dashboard to measure broad community metrics around early childhood, 3rd grade reading, 8th grade reading/math, graduation, ACT, post-secondary enrollment and completion. In addition, EdCo works with state databases and researchers at the University of Illinois to track local school achievement
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	levels against state and national norms. Finally, EdCo “resources” its Collaborative discussions through research and data.
Communication Mechanisms	Presentations, website, newspaper, networking, e-mail, and social networking.
Contact	Jean Hinton, Ed.D. Executive Director Decatur Area Education Coalition (EdCo) of the Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County 125 N. Water Street, Suite 200, Decatur, IL 62521 jhinton@edco4kids.org 217-429-3000 http://www.edco4kids.org

Early Childhood Coalition of the Illinois Quad City Area (ECC)

Quad City Area, including East Moline, Moline, and Rock Island

Established: 2001

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>The Early Childhood Coalition of the Illinois Quad City Area (ECC) is a dynamic collaboration of educators, service providers, parents and community members working as one to create a comprehensive system of services for young children and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and fill gaps in services to young children and their families • Facilitate communication regarding issues and initiatives impacting young children, families and service providers • Secure funding sources to expand services to young children and families • Promote parent education and professional development opportunities • Provide networking opportunities for those working on behalf of young children and families
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>Supported by the University of Illinois Extension and the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education (RI ROE), ECC has evolved from an informal group of individuals that began meeting in 2001 to a membership organization governed by a Board of Directors with active committees (including Executive, Funding, Program, and Community Outreach). Bylaws were created and a formal governance structure was adopted in 2005.</p> <p>ECC general membership meetings are held annually in June and ECC Board meetings are held monthly. Board members serve on a voluntary basis and are elected by the ECC during the annual ECC general membership meetings.</p> <p>The first Board of Directors was voted in by the ECC membership, with terms starting in July 2005. ECC was incorporated in January 2006 and received 501c(3) nonprofit status in December 2006.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Membership is on an individual basis. ECC members include parents, service providers and other community stakeholders committed to ECC's mission.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>ECC has both short and long-term projects. Examples of short-term projects include Voter Awareness & Registration Campaigns and a Community Resource Directory. Examples of long-term projects follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birth to Five Developmental Screenings <p>These screenings are conducted in collaboration with many agencies including but not limited to: Black Hawk Area Special Education District, Rock Island Health Department, Child and Family Connections, Rock Island Regional Office of Education, Department of Specialized Care for Children, and local school districts.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caregiver Connections In partnership with the Robert Young Center for Community Mental Health and Community Child Care Resource & Referral since 2006, Caregiver Connections provides mental health consultation services to early care and education providers in the Illinois Counties of Henry, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Mercer, Rock Island, and Warren. Caregiver Connections is supported by grant funds from IDHS. ▪ Early Learning Quad Cities In partnership with the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education and several early care and education providers since 2003, Early Learning Quad Cities (ELQC) provides pre-kindergarten support services to children three to five years of age in community-based settings in Rock Island County. ELQC is supported by grant funds from the Illinois State Board of Education. ▪ Quad City Early Childhood Conference Since 2004, ECC has been a sponsor of the Quad City Early Childhood Conference, a bi-state initiative, along with Black Hawk College, Community Child Care Resource & Referral, Iowa State University Extension, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, Project NOW Head Start, Quad Cities Association for the Education of Young Children, Rock Island County Regional Office of Education, Scott Community College, Scott County Empowerment, Western Illinois University, and WQPT-Quad Cities PBS. ▪ Quality For All Early Childhood Teacher Preparation In partnership with the RI ROE, Bureau/Henry/Stark ROE, Henderson/Mercer/Warren ROE, and Western Illinois University since 2007, the Quality For All (QFA) Early Childhood Teacher Preparation project identifies and supports candidates in pursuit of Early Childhood Teacher certification. QFA is supported by grant funds from the Illinois State Board of Education. ▪ All Our Kids Early Childhood Network In partnership with IDHS, the ECC coordinates the Rock Island County AOK Network.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, website, monthly meetings.
Contact	April Peska 4341 18 th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 309-788-9995 ecc_aok@att.net www.eccqc.org

Early Childhood Community Coalition, Lake County (ECCC)

Lake County

Established: 1989

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	Initially, ECCC's focus was to increase the availability of high quality, affordable child day care in Lake County. There seemed to be a general lack of understanding regarding how critical the early years are to a child's development: socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically. The Coalition's mission statement: The ECCC is a united voice of community partners and leaders who advocate, collaborate and strategize to support healthy early childhood growth, development and school readiness. The Coalition's work is a community-wide effort that focuses on ages 0-8, to reduce duplication, conserve finances and manpower, and magnify impact.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	ECCC is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization with an elected board. Monthly meetings are held at various locations throughout the community. Currently, there are no paid staff, although at times, ECCC has made use of grants to hire temporary staff to meet grant goals. The current budget is about \$10,000 and varies yearly. Sources of income include membership fees, occasional fund raisers, and grants.
Partners and Participants	ECCC was initially founded by a collaboration of the Lake County Health Department, United Way, and the Licensing Department of DCFS. Today, partners include Lake County agencies and organizations that work with families and young children, including CCR&R, DCFS licensing representatives, health department personnel, public and private schools, child care facilities, colleges, educators, the State's Attorney's office, the County Coroner, counselors, pediatricians, women's advocates, and local businesses.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>ECCC has a strategic plan and its activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events including: Week of the Young Child events (entertainment, contests, informational materials, children's activities, appearances by legislators/ policy makers) and community forums. • Public education campaigns including cable TV programs, newspaper articles, and a 100% Licensing Campaign involving pediatricians. • Community resource book: website resources are in development. • Training, including an annual conference for early childhood educators, and programs including presentations by Dr. Barry Brazelton, Dr. Burton White, Dr. Stanley Tureckie, Dr. Barbara Bowman, Dr. Lillian Katz, and many others. ECCC has also granted scholarships for Project T.E.A.C.H. • Advocacy in conjunction with ECCC's community partners, including legislative breakfasts and the ACT project, in which legislators were taken for visits at local child care facilities. • Evaluations are utilized at specific events, along with on-line general questionnaires.

Communication Mechanisms	Most communications are carried out via email, mail, newspaper, newsletters, and coordinating with other agencies' communication systems.
Contact	Meredith Egan: Meredith.Egan@uwlakeco.org Pat Goodman: caboodle@earthlink.com Deb O'Neil: do'neil@lakecountyl.gov Elaine Germian: Emg099@aol.com www.EarlyChildhoodLC.org

Early Learning Council of the Rockford Area (ELCRA)

Rockford area, including Winnebago and Boone Counties

Established: 2003

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>Since the late 1980's, a number of local early care and education leaders had been collaborating informally to share resources, conduct joint community wide screenings, and to share planning information. These leaders included the Director of Early Childhood programs for the Rockford Public Schools, a local Child Care director and the Head Start Director. Over the first 12 years, in addition to the development of an annual Child Find community wide screening process, the groups jointly sponsored (along with other organizations) a community-wide early learning fair during the Week of the Young Child, and collaborated in publicizing the annual Kids Count report. When the State's Early Learning Council was commissioned in 2001, several local early care and education leaders were appointed or served on committees. The idea of a formal structure that would provide a forum for wider community awareness, information and support regarding the importance of early learning was born from the combination of these influences.</p> <p>ELCRA focuses on the 0-5 age group, and its mission is to support quality early learning opportunities for all young children and their parents through the collaboration of educators, service providers and community members.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>ELCRA's Board meets monthly, and the full council meets quarterly. The Board, which serves like an Executive Committee, is elected annually by the membership. Major decisions are usually made by the full membership through consensus. Its guiding principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain a Focus on Children and Families ➤ Be Data Driven and Evidence Based ➤ Promote a Community System of Care ➤ Attend to Cultural, Linguistic, and Ability Diversity ➤ Be Ethical <p>ELCRA is in the process of solidifying the committees for each of its five goal areas, with at least one Board member serving on each committee.</p> <p>Currently, there are no paid staff and no dedicated revenue stream. ELCRA was established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in July of 2011; funding and staffing are high priorities.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>ELCRA started with a focus on assisting early care and education providers to increase quality and make system improvements. Regular meetings at that time focused on updating developments in ECE and sharing any news around system advancements, news from the federal and state levels, a great forum for exchange and insights. Today, ELCRA has about 40-50 paid members,</p>

	including education professionals, LIC, CCR&R, community volunteers, the retired head of research of the Rockford College of Medicine, health care providers, the Rockford Health Council, the community collaboration arm of the public schools, United Way, and the Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders. ELCRA seeks to expand its engagement of the medical community.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>ELCRA is finishing up a review of its strategic plan; its five goal areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase the effectiveness of collaboration and networking ➤ Increase and diversify membership ➤ Strengthen outreach and advocacy ➤ Hire staff to drive Council mission ➤ Identify service gaps to improve access
Communication Mechanisms	Email, website.
Contact	<p>George E. Davis, CCAP Executive Director City of Rockford Human Services Department 612 N. Church Street, Rockford, IL. 61103 (815) 987-5795 George.davis@rockfordil.gov http://www.earlylearningcouncil.org/</p>

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL)

Elgin

Established: 2011

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>EPEL is a group of funders, educators, and providers that began meeting in the summer of 2011 to address the issue of kindergarten readiness.</p> <p>EPEL's mission is to collaborate with partners to ensure that children are supported in becoming ready for kindergarten, and their vision is to engage the whole community in preparing children to succeed in school and in life.</p> <p>EPEL's message to parents is simple: "GIVE ME FIVE." Parents should talk, play, read, do, and write with their young children, engaging them in multiple activities to promote the development and growth of a wide range of skills.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The group will meet at least six times per year. There are general members, an Executive Committee, four Subcommittees, a Parent Council and a Business Advisory Committee.</p> <p>The Executive Committee is comprised of thirteen members that include a Standing Committee (Library, Grand Victoria Foundation, United Way of Elgin, U46 School District, the Health Department, and a Parent Council representative) and two renewable members from each of the following three sectors: Health, Early Learning, and Family Support & Leadership.</p> <p>There are 4 Subcommittees; Messaging and Communication, Program Coordination and Alignment, Quality Improvement and Capacity Building, Data and Shared Measurement; each Subcommittee has six to eight members.</p> <p>EPEL has been facilitated for the past year by a contract facilitator. The previous year, EPEL was primarily a volunteer organization, with a facilitator funded for community engagement meetings only. It is anticipated that there will be a staff person in the future.</p> <p>Current and past funders include the United Way of Elgin, Grand Victoria Foundation, and an ECAP grant. EPEL is seeking stable funding.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Partners include: CCR&R, Gail Borden Public Library, Grand Victoria Foundation, Kane County Health Department, One Hope United Elgin Child and Family Resource Center, School District U-46, United Way of Elgin, and YWCA Elgin.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>EPEL is working to intensify the impact of local efforts that prepare children for kindergarten by integrating the partners' expertise and resources and by creating a unified community plan.</p> <p>EPEL members have adopted an approach called collective impact, which leverages the commitment of its partners to contribute to successful and</p>

	<p>sustainable outcomes.</p> <p>A workplan is in development. First-year outcomes included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication piece to parents called “Give Me Five,” that provides an easy-to-remember overview of how to create an appropriate learning environment for young children; • A restructured parent-child activity calendar to support the “Give Me Five” message; and • A video that demonstrates simple ways to help babies, toddlers, and preschoolers learn and develop.
Communication Mechanisms	Email and meetings.
Contact	<p>Lynne Bosley 1797 N. La Fox Street, South Elgin, Illinois 60177 847-741-2259 info@elginpartnership.org http://www.unitedwayelgin.org/news/learn-more-about-the-elgin-partnership-for-early-learning</p>

Evanston Early Childhood Community Collaboration

Evanston, Illinois

Established: 2000

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>In 2000, a consortium of early childhood programs was convened to identify a community early childhood vision for Evanston. As a result, the Evanston Early Childhood Community Collaboration was established. Organizers included early childhood programs as well as representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, social service agencies, and colleges.</p> <p><u>Vision Statement:</u> Every child in our community will have the opportunity to experience an exceptional early childhood education that reflects the diversity of our community.</p> <p><u>Purpose of the Collaboration:</u> To support, maintain, and build capacity for a comprehensive, high quality early childhood system serving all children, birth to age eight, and their families.</p> <p>Originally, the Collaboration focused on three areas: building capacity, maintaining and raising quality, and serving unmet needs in the community. As the campaign for universal preschool increased, the Collaboration began to focus efforts in the area of Preschool for All (PFA). In an effort to benefit the entire community, the Collaboration applied for PFA funds on behalf of early childhood programs in the community as a whole. During the first year, a program was developed in which the lead agency within the collaboration (Child Care Network of Evanston) administered the grant. Full time and part time programs with Pre-K teachers got a portion of the money allocated to them to operate PFA.</p> <p>To address the goal of maintaining and raising quality, meetings were convened by the school district to align Early Learning Standards with the Evanston Educational Standards (for K-12). Evanston Early Learning Standards were developed, followed by lesson plans and benchmarks tailored to the prevailing early childhood philosophy in community.</p>
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Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>There is a formal written agreement between the member organizations within the Collaboration. There are no dedicated staff members; coordination is done by the lead agency.</p> <p>The Collaboration has a strong relationship with the Evanston Community Foundation. The Foundation was awarded Grand Victoria funds to address three quality of life issues in Evanston, including child care. The Community Foundation gathered people to look at these three issues to decide how to spend funds. Because of the Collaboration's efforts, the Foundation chose to focus on early childhood during the first year, and it committed \$120,000 to support birth to three home visiting. Without the Collaboration and its established networks, early childhood may not have been first quality of life issue to be addressed. Now the Foundation has more input into the Collaboration because of their huge investment ensuring that every child is ready for kindergarten and every child is ready to succeed in school.</p> <p>Currently, the Collaboration is a membership organization that charges dues to participating organizations. Membership dues vary: organizations that serve 50 or more children is \$500 per year. Organizations with less than 50 children pay \$250, and dues for individual members are \$75. The Collaboration also receives funding from the Community Foundation.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Initially there were 19 formal partners; there were no membership fees, but just a commitment of participation from each agency's board of directors. As the Collaboration evolved and dues were required, membership declined. Membership is voluntary and open to any organization or individual within the community. Partner organizations include United Way (a major funder of early childhood programs in Evanston) and The City of Evanston Mental Health Board, which supports scholarships for families that are no longer eligible for the state subsidy.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The Collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Coordinates shared professional development opportunities between agencies.</u> The Childcare Network of Evanston functions as a Strengthening Families Illinois learning network hub, offering trainings at the local school district for both parents and providers (outside of collaboration, but is collaborative work). • <u>Supports public education, messaging and social marketing campaigns.</u> For example, the Collaboration planned a forum on the economic benefits of high quality early care and education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conducts a service inventory.</u> Childcare Network completes a comprehensive community assessment every third year for Early Head Start that is used by the Collaboration. The Collaboration hosted a community forum, following the completion of the Community Assessment and presented findings including Hispanic demographics in Evanston. • <u>Maintains a database:</u> Childcare Network maintains a database of all childcare providers in Evanston who want to sign up. An early childhood guide is published roughly every year or two, which lists every early childhood program, some after-school programs and City of Evanston services. • <u>Is working to coordinate training opportunities.</u> One training has been offered to parents regarding professional education and parenting workshops. • <u>Commits resources to Family Leadership Development</u> by hosting parent cafes, which offers parents opportunities to become leaders, but that is not a collaborative effort. • <u>Identifies and addresses service gaps in regards to home visiting.</u> It was identified that Evanston lacked zero to three programming. When ISBE funds were released, all Evanston's early childhood programs gathered together to strategize a plan to receive funding. The Collaboration also sought funding from the Community Foundation for zero to three home visits as well as partnering with the school district for a family room that can be used for socializing activities once a month. • <u>Coordinates advocacy efforts:</u> The Collaboration holds legislative forums, with shared sponsorship including Illinois Action for Children as resource for advocacy work. • <u>Informally provides technical assistance</u> through an early childhood consultant who does training for partner organizations.
Communication Mechanisms	Communication is primarily via email, and meetings are held quarterly.
Contact	<p>Andrea Densham Executive Director Network of Evanston 1335 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 847-475-2661 densham@childcarenetworkofevanston.org</p>

Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Planning Committee

Includes East St. Louis, Washington Park, Alorton, Brooklyn, Cahokia and Centreville

Established: 2009

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>East St. Louis was selected as one of the Building Blocks II Projects in Illinois. This two-year initiative was funded by Illinois Action For Children (IAFC) with the generous support of the Grand Victoria Foundation. Its purpose was to develop and implement capacity building strategies that are responsive to local needs and focus on engaging the hardest –to-reach, most at-risk families in high quality early learning opportunities. The project was managed by the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation. As a first step, IAFC and the Community Foundation reached out to a broad base of stakeholders to develop a collaborative approach to assessing needs and identifying strategies. This effort resulted in the formation of the Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Planning Committee.</p> <p>The initial work focused on creating a network of early education providers and assessing needs. At the end of year two, the Committee developed a two-year Action Plan, which focused on three goals: (1) Expanding the network of providers; (2) promoting the Quality Rating System to encourage greater provider participation; and (3) developing an advocacy strategy to communicate providers’ needs and concerns.</p> <p>The mission of the Greater East St. Louis Early Planning Committee is to promote high quality Early Childcare and education in East St. Louis and its neighboring communities. We work collaboratively to advocate for early learning providers and the children we serve, as well as provide a forum for the education and leadership development of the childcare workforce. The focus is on children aged 0-6.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Planning Committee meets at least monthly, and decisions are made by vote or general consensus. There is a committee structure that includes three Chairs to represent center-based providers, home-based providers, and the general community.</p> <p>Currently, a consultant, Treena Thompson, assists with project coordination and management. The Planning Committee’s administrative home is Uni-Pres Kindercottage. The current main funder is the East St. Louis Community Fund, and support is being sought from other sources.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>The Planning Committee seeks to engage both licensed and license-exempt Early Childhood Education providers, based on centers and homes. The Planning Committee currently has 50 members who have officially joined the Greater East St. Louis Provider Network; more than 300 providers have participated in trainings sponsored by the Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Planning Committee. Active members include: Children’s Home + Aid (the CCR&R), LIC, IAFC, DCFS, District 189, AOK Network, Gloria’s TLC, Delta Child Development Center, Uni-Pres Kindercottage, Southern Illinois University: East</p>

	<p>St. Louis Center and the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund, and MOAs are being developed. The Planning Committee is seeking to increase engagement among Head Start and health care providers. The Planning Committee also works with the East St. Louis Youth Coordinating Council, which addresses the needs of school-aged children ages 6 – 12 years.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The Planning Committee has a strategic plan. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events, including forums to discuss QRS; discussion groups with INCCRRA, Gateway, and Justine Peterson. This summer, the Planning Committee is planning a Child Care Olympics in observance of “Week of the Young Child.” • Public education campaigns, including providing information on licensing rules and regulation changes. • Parent engagement activities, including partnering with the AOK Network and parents to conduct surveys and engage the community regarding barriers to childcare, unmet needs and program effectiveness. The Planning Committee also partnered with AOK to provide parent trainings on leadership, child development and healthy eating habits. • Trainings and technical assistance, including trainings reached over 227 unduplicated early learning professionals, ranging from large group trainings to four-day one-on-one trainings with Centers to help them prepare for participation in the Star Rating System. Topics in trainings have included such areas as: CPR; Hand Sanitizing; and SIDS. As a result of direct one-to-one peer technical assistance, one Center has moved from one star to two stars, and two centers have obtained their first Star rating. • Identifying service gaps, including the Planning Committee’s 2012 report entitled “Challenges and Opportunities in Early Education in Greater East St. Louis, Ill.” This report identified major gaps in the early education system: (1) underutilization of existing resources in the Greater East St. Louis area; (2) lack of connection and networking opportunities among providers; (3) lack of consensus about quality standards; (4) need for innovation in parent involvement and engagement. The Planning Committee then developed a two-year plan around these goals and has been implementing its Action Plan. • Advocacy efforts include organizing three buses of center- and home-based child care, providers as well as two vans of children to Springfield to educate legislators on the importance of child care funding. In addition, there was a letter-writing and phone call campaign, and children colored rocket ships and mailed them to legislators. This year for Mother’s Day, children will color flowers and mail them to legislators. The Planning Committee is developing its own local policy agenda. On a state-wide basis, we have worked with IAFC to keep abreast of votes and budget decisions as well as trainings on advocacy and knowing your rights.

Communication Mechanisms	Mailings, phone, and child care newsletter.
Contact	Brenda Crisp, Co-Chairperson Uni-Pres Kindercottage 564 Veronica Ave, East St. Louis, IL 62205 618.874.6505 unipres@sbcglobal.net

Grundy Partnership for Children (GPC)

Grundy County

Established: 2009

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>Grundy Partnership for Children (GPC) is a county-wide collaboration comprised of a variety of organizations that work to prepare children for school. By uniting organizations with similar goals, Grundy Partnership for Children will coordinate and strengthen resources, educational materials and access to support for children and families in Grundy County.</p> <p>The goals of the GPC include: Increase parental awareness of healthy child development, Ensure children have access to developmental screenings, and Increase highly qualified and well prepared professionals.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The Partnership meets monthly and has a Leadership Team that coordinates its activities.
Partners and Participants	Participants include: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties; CCR&R; Child and Family Connections; Community Foundation of Grundy County; Easter Seals Joliet Region; Greater Joliet YMCA/ Morris Family YMCA; Grundy County Health Department; Grundy Workforce Services – Joliet Junior College; Morris Hospital and Healthcare Services; Step By Step Child Care Center; UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children; United Way of Grundy County; and We Care of Grundy County.
Primary Activities and Strategies	Projects include a Back to School Fair, Summer Activities Expo, and a Youth Forum.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, website, Facebook, meetings.
Contact	<p>Devan Gagliardo Community Foundation of Grundy County 102 Liberty Street, Morris, IL 60450 (815) 941-0852 devan@cfgrundycounty.com http://www.cfgrundycounty.com/networks/grundy-partnership-for-children/ https://www.facebook.com/GrundyPartnershipForChildren?ref=hl</p>

Illinois Project LAUNCH

(Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health)

North and South Lawndale and East and West Garfield Park in the City of Chicago

Federal Project Period: October 2009 thru September 2014

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>The community areas of Chicago's Westside have a long history of strong activism, commitment and pride. Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) was built upon the strong partners of its AOK Network and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership. The Project serves four community areas; North and South Lawndale and East and West Garfield. These communities have generational poverty, poor health and educational outcomes and high instances of violence.</p> <p>Through innovative strategies, Illinois Project LAUNCH works to promote mental health wellness for pregnant and parenting families in the Greater Westside of Chicago, that will influence state level policies and programs.</p> <p>The goal for Project LAUNCH is to promote young child wellness by reducing fragmentation and integrating services at the state and local levels. Effective partnership and collaboration are at the heart of this process.</p> <p>Our goal is to enhance systems that will be sustainable and effective in connecting families with young children (0-8) to resources that support social emotional well-being with a trauma-informed approach. The strategy for accomplishing this is focused on: 1. Increasing screening and assessment in a range of child –serving settings 2. Integrating behavioral health into primary care settings 3. Enhancing home visiting through increase focused on social and emotional well-being 4. Developing mental health consultation in early care and education and 5. Supporting and developing family strengthening and parent skills training.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>Illinois Project LAUNCH has two councils to help achieve its goals. The State Council is comprised of state level representatives from government and advocacy agencies who are able to best address systems and policy change. The Local Council is comprised of over 50 local agencies that serve families with young children in the target area. The Local Council meets monthly to receive updates on local workgroup activities and develop and implement a plan that serves the goals and objectives of the project. Community area specific meetings are held weekly.</p> <p>The staff of Illinois Project LAUNCH include: the State Young Child Wellness Expert, Local Young Child Wellness Coordinator, The Child Development Specialist, The Home Visitor Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant. This is a five-year initiative funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>The network consists of more than 50 active community partners that include: mental health, physical health, social service, educational and faith-</p>

	based providers and the Cook County Correctional facilities.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The five strategies of Illinois Project LAUNCH include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Integration of behavior health into primary health care, and increased screenings and assessments</u> through the Enhancing Developmentally Oriented Primary Care (EDOPC) project. • <u>Parent Strengthening</u> and engagement through Parent Cafes and Trauma, Recovery and Empowerment Model (TREM) support groups in the community and correctional centers. • <u>Mental Health Consultation</u> with Counselors and Teachers in various elementary schools within the four communities. • <u>Increased support for home visitation programs serving families at risk for poor physical and mental health outcomes</u> through training and the Guiding People, Providers and Parents through Systems (GP³S) data system for tracking referrals and screenings. • <u>Additional services include activities to increase public awareness to the impact of trauma and the importance of mental wellness.</u> <p>Illinois Project LAUNCH activities are evaluated by the University of Illinois.</p>
Communication Mechanisms	Email, website, meetings, googledocs and newsletters.
Contact	<p>Felicia Fair-Thompson State Young Child Wellness Expert Illinois Department of Human Services 401 S Clinton, Chicago, IL 60607 (312) 793-8281 Felicia.M.Fair-Thompson@illinois.gov or Diane Scruggs Executive Director Healthy Families Chicago 2100 S. Marshall Blvd, Unit 201, Chicago, Illinois 60623 scruggsdiane@comcast.net http://www.illinoisprojectlaunch.org/</p>

Kankakee Success by Six

Kankakee County

Established: 2008

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>United Way of Kankakee County and the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley created the Success By Six® Initiative in 2008, with the understanding that early learning is critical to building strong citizens and a strong workforce. A key part of the Community Foundation's impact plan is the community works grants supporting early childhood. As need in the county increased it was a logical solution to partner with the United Way to make the most impact.</p> <p>In forming the coalition, they examined the focus areas of the Community Foundation's Impact Plan. Over 350 United Way SB6 Coalitions nationwide are focused on improving school readiness through social and community change, with the understanding that the best outcomes require looking at the whole child and the whole family. SB6 is an early childhood initiative that works to ensure that all children birth to age six have the positive and enriching experiences and parent-child relationships necessary to begin school ready to succeed.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>SB6 meets monthly, and goal groups meet outside of the monthly meeting as needed. The Leadership Team consists of three entities representing Early Childhood and the community. Three Goal Groups, each led by a member of the Leadership Team, were formed to address strategies, create tasks, plan activities to reach its goals, facilitate communication and ensure progress towards its goals.</p> <p>Although a collaborative of this size is in need of at least one dedicated staff member coordinating all of its activities, SB6 has not found any funding support for this. SB6 continues to depend on the pro bono assistance of its members. SB6 receives about \$10,000 annually through a jointly funded initiative between the Community Foundation and the United Way; its administrative home is the Community Foundation.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>SB6 is comprised of members from various backgrounds including: early care and education, social work, higher education, healthcare, library science, and administration. SB6 has approximately 20 partner agencies, including I-KAN (Regional Office of Education), Pledge for Life Partnership, LIC, CCR&R, Head Start, libraries, and other community collaborations including PHC and MAPP. MOAs are being collected from members. SB6 is seeking to strengthen the engagement of businesses, government, and the public library and health systems.</p>

Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>SB6 recently went through a strategic re-setting as part of the ECAP project. Part of the plan is to review the strategic goals and leadership on an annual basis to measure its function and impact. Current activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events, including an informational pre-school fair planned for spring 2014, and future Voices data launches and symposiums starting in 2014. • Public education campaigns, including a future health campaign, and a school readiness calendar. • Community resources, including a program/service map which will be compiled and presented to the community in late 2013. • Parent leadership development, including parent cafes promoting literacy and family leadership and the Love & Logic parenting series. • Identifying service gaps, • Technical assistance to communities wanting to offer Kindergarten Boot Camps as well as Parent Cafes. • Data collection, including collaboration with Bradley SD #61 to survey students entering Kindergarten, and their families, on their school readiness status in summer 2011, and Spring 2012 & 2013. In addition, SB5 is beginning to use data and outcomes to identify service gaps and to determine strategic goals for the community (as part of the ECAP project). Additional data collection needs and methods are currently being explored.
Communication Mechanisms	<p>Success By Six reaches their members through email and reaches out to the community via its website and the newspaper.</p>
Contact	<p>Nicole Smolkovich Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley 701 S. Harrison Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901 815.939.1611 nicole@endowthefuture.org www.parentspage.org</p>

Local Interagency Councils (LICs)

Statewide: 44 LICs connected to Child and Family Connections (CFC) Agencies

Established: 1997

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p><u>Mission:</u> Local Interagency Councils (LICs) have been established throughout Illinois for the coordination and design of Early Intervention child find and public awareness and providing advocacy for eligible families within the given geographic areas.</p> <p>LICs advise local Child and Family Connections (CFC) offices in the coordination of local services and resources necessary to implement a comprehensive system for screening and identifying young children with developmental delays or disabilities.</p> <p><u>Goals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify children in need of Early Intervention services • To assist with the recruitment of Early Intervention providers • To make Early Intervention services more accessible to children and families
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>LIC Coordination is provided by CFC offices to facilitate the work of the group. Membership is defined in state statute. Meetings are scheduled by the CFC office.</p> <p>Each CFC is given \$19,000 for LIC coordination, along with \$3,000 for each LIC.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Members of each local interagency council shall include, but not be limited to, the following: parents; representatives from coordination and advocacy service providers; local education agencies; other local public and private service providers; representatives from State agencies at the local level; and others deemed necessary by the local council.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>Local interagency councils assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of collaborative agreements between local service providers, diagnostic and other agencies providing additional services to the child and family; • assist in conducting local needs assessments and planning efforts; • identify and resolve local access issues; • conduct collaborative child find activities; • coordinate public awareness initiatives; • coordinate local planning and evaluation; • assist in the recruitment of specialty personnel; • develop plans for facilitating transition and integration of eligible children and families into the community;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• facilitate conflict resolution at the local level; and• develop an annual report.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, phone calls, in-person meetings and word of mouth. Meetings are scheduled by CFC offices, and are held in libraries, churches and the offices of member organizations.
Contact	<p>Amy Tarr Bureau Chief, Early Intervention Illinois Department of Human Services 823 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701 (217) 782-1981 Amy.tarr@illinois.gov http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31</p>

Macon County Community Advisory Board

Macon County

Established: 2012

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	This collaboration was established to coordinate home visiting, family support and other services to at risk families with children ages 0-5.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	An Executive Committee guides the work of the collaboration. The community system developer and central intake is housed at the Macon County Health Department and is funded through MIECHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting).
Partners and Participants	The collaboration includes social service agencies, CCR&R, the County Health Department, home visiting programs, Decatur Public Schools, a pregnancy center, Planned Parenthood, DOVE, House Authority, DCFS, DHS, County Jail and after school programs. MOAs have been established.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>Activities include community outreach events for families, a universal developmental screening in conjunction with after school programs and preschool recruitment, a resource directory. Attending other social service advisory boards, coalition and collaboration meetings.</p> <p>The collaborative also participated in a kindergarten kickoff, pre-school screening, hosted by the school district and a father's day activity hosted by the Housing Authority.</p>
Communication Mechanisms	Email and meetings; social networking is being explored.
Contact	<p>Amy Schroeder Macon County Health Department 1221 E. Condit Street, Decatur, IL 62521-1405 217 423 6988 x 1137 aschroeder@maconcountyhealth.org</p>

Northwest Cook Community Agency Network (NWCAN)

Wheeling and Palatine Townships

Established: 2009 (in its current configuration)

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>NWCAN had a long history as a council in the NW suburbs, dating back to 1985, when leaders got together to address the need for EC programs to collaborate. NWCAN went through a series of different formats, as a grant-funded project, in Wheeling, and under an umbrella organization (Family Serve). In 2009, Schaumburg decided to separate from the group and continued on with Family Serve; NWCAN formed a new collaboration.</p> <p>Vision: NWCAN seeks to avoid duplication and service gaps by building a cohesive and ongoing awareness of service availability for children and families in the NW cook area. Mission: NWCAN supports families and professionals in NW Cook County, providing awareness and access to the resources needed to ensure children aged 0-5 are ready for school success.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	NWCAN meets three times per year at District 214. The group is led by a committee of volunteers; decisions are made by consensus. There is a staff member at the Illinois Resource Center who helps send out notices.
Partners and Participants	NWCAN has a list of about 60-70 agencies, but there is a core group of about 30 active members, including early learning providers, 0-3 providers, Prevention Initiative programs, Star Net, Children's Home + Aid, Illinois Action For Children, the CFC, mental health and nutrition programs, family support agencies, Harper College, District 214 adult education, public libraries, Safe for the Start, child abuse agencies, immigrant-serving organizations, human service agencies, continuing education programs, and the CCR&R. Some of these agencies have MOAs with NWCAN.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speakers come to each meeting, based on group interests. • Advocacy activities, including working with Voices to cosponsor a 2012 Kids Count Forum that reached over 100 participants, including local politicians and community leaders. This grew out of past programs that indicated the importance of advocacy in building capacity. • Trainings, including a collaboration training through Positive Parenting that attracted a large turnout. • A resource directory is available on the website.
Communication Mechanisms	Most communications are carried out via email.
Contact	<p>Rebecca Flint Illinois Resource Center 2626 S. Clearbrook Dr., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 rflint@cntrmail.org http://ecdec.org/ (see NWCAN Resource Guide page)</p>

Ottawa Partnership for Young Children

City of Ottawa

Established: 2012

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>While there are other local collaborations that address other community needs, members of those collaborations recognized that the needs of families of young children 0-6 need to be addressed in a coordinated manner – so that children are screened young and receive any needed early intervention services, receive quality care, and are ready for kindergarten.</p> <p>The Partnership envisions a community that empowers families of young children to be physically, socially, and emotionally healthy in order to foster school readiness.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The group meets quarterly and operates on a consensus basis. The Partnership does not have a paid staff member; all coalition members are volunteers.
Partners and Participants	The following are part of our coalition: early intervention service providers and coordinators, child care providers, educators, preschools, faith community leaders, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Head Start, social service agencies. Many members are part of our local LIC. In addition, our CFC serves on both (our collaboration and the LIC).
Primary Activities and Strategies	The Partnership did an assessment as part of the ECAP grant, and is working on a strategic plan that includes community mapping, improving communication between agencies (through a listserv), creating a resource book and resource materials regarding developmental milestones, identifying and working to fill serve gaps, providing education for professionals working with young children, and supporting families to increase kindergarten readiness.
Communication Mechanisms	Most communications are carried out via email.
Contact	<p>Susan Bursztynsky Easter Seals of LaSalle & Bureau Counties 1013 Adams Street, Ottawa, IL 61350 815.434.0857 SBursztynsky@il-lb.easterseals.com</p>

Peoria Early Childhood Forum

Primarily Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties

(some participating providers also serve families in Knox, Henry, Stark, Fulton, and Logan Counties)

Established: 1999

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	The forum was founded by leaders who saw the need to convene early childhood providers to share information and resources for children ages 0-8.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The group meets monthly, and officers are elected annually. There is currently no dedicated funding for the forum, and there are no paid staff.
Partners and Participants	<p>There are about 30-40 members, including Children's Home Association, the Child Abuse Council, Family Case Management, Head Start, the Health Department, and Prevention Initiative programs as well as the Junior League and PNC Bank. The Forum works in collaboration with the AOK Network, CCR&R, and Local Interagency Council.</p> <p>The forum is seeking to strengthen its engagement of faith-based institutions, mental health providers, and law enforcement agencies.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual legislative breakfast; • Family Fest in January (at which information, books, and educational games are distributed to families); • Sharing of program information; and • Discussion of trends and issues.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, phone, and in-person meetings.
Contact	<p>Vikki Thompson Children's Home Association 233 Leadley Ave., East Peoria, IL 61611 309-687-7501 VThompso@chail.org</p>

Positive Parenting DuPage

DuPage County

Established: 2004

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>Planning started in 2004 through the Topfer Foundation, and included community stakeholders such as state department administrators, hospital officials, business owners, and civic leaders. The goal was to address child abuse prevention by emphasizing positive parenting.</p> <p>Mission: Positive Parenting DuPage (Positive) is a multi-faceted, county-wide collaboration comprised of dozens of organizations that work with families during the first five years of a child's life. Based in primary prevention methods, Positive is working to change the culture of parenting and child development in DuPage County, to lower the incidence of child abuse and neglect and increase effective parenting. By uniting organizations across the county with similar goals, Positive coordinates educational materials and strengthens linkages and access to support for all families. This comprehensive system includes components targeting all parents, not only those previously determined to be at risk. By creating a collaborative birth to five infrastructure that builds the capacity of all organizations that touch the lives of young children, Positive offers support in increasing the quality of services families receive. The target population for Positive is all families, caregivers and professionals involved in the healthy development of children birth to five in DuPage County (approximately 65,000 children birth to five and 13,000 new births).</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>Positive has a 10 to 15 member board of directors, 50% of whom are individuals with a focus on planning and development. Further community involvement is fostered by the task force structure: specific task forces for each project component are populated and follow work plans under the guidance of Positive staff. Sixty percent of partner agencies participate in one of the task forces, including the Early Learning Coalition, Professional Development, Home Visiting, and Voices Leadership.</p> <p>Current staffing consists of three full-time positions; executive director, director of programs, and program specialist. A few of the main roles of the executive director and the director of programs are to broker new relationships, execute trainings, lead task forces, and provide quality assurance. The program specialist answers the intake line, maintains the community resource database and represents Positive at community events.</p> <p>Positive's budget is just over \$350,000. The Topfer Family Foundation is the main funder, and Positive engages in collaborative grant writing to accomplish goals along with partners. About 15-20 grants are written and applied to annually to support the work.</p>

	<p>Positive Parenting has a strategic plan, policy manual and logic model. There are outcome measures that relate to an external evaluation, specific to qualitative questions. Positive measures its work in relation to benchmarks as part of preparation for credentialing and staff training.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>Over 1,300 professionals work with young children and families. These professionals include hospital staff (nurses, doctors etc.), school district staff (teaching staff, social workers etc), health department personnel, county government (case workers, intake staff etc.), parent educators, and home visitors. There are 150 partners, including funders, school districts, advocacy organizations, professional support organizations, DHS, adoption agencies, counseling centers, professional organizations, and mental health agencies.</p> <p>The strongest partner is the County Health Department; a strong collaboration and resource referral exchange has been forged. The local school districts are also strong partners; they see Positive as a valuable place for resource referral. Positive is seeking to strengthen its engagement of DCFS as well as the local DHS office.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating professional development (Voices leadership committees, conferences) • Providing parent education • Conducting outreach to communities and partners (through focus groups and evaluations) • Conducting community mapping • Maintaining a community resource database • Providing individual training with partner agencies (the instances in which all partners have been brought together have involved training) • Increase referral coordination across programs • Compile and share data with partner agencies to identify and begin to fill service gaps • Conduct and/or coordinate advocacy efforts through the broader collaboration. Positive works to get families and agencies engaged with the Voices Leadership Committee. • Provide technical assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the past, Positive has worked with home visiting and school districts helping them to understand the grant process. ○ Positive also works with programs to ensure that they are meeting quality assurance standards. Staff will go out and perform training, mock interviews and mock file audits so that programs are prepared when it is time for the real program audits. Program quality is the message constantly being conveyed to partner agencies.

Communication Mechanisms	<p>The main form of communication is electronic. Every quarter, a newsletter is distributed to all partners. These are usually information alerts that keep partners up to date. Also, individual contacts to each partner are made on a rotating schedule. The executive director and the Director of Programs also conduct face-to-face meetings with partners when they are engaged in specific, individualized collaboration together. The entire partnership rarely meets together all at once. Partners choose a taskforce to contribute to and those taskforces meet regularly. The partnership as a whole has been pulled together twice for conferences.</p>
Contact	<p>Jeanna Capito Executive Director Positive Parenting DuPage 4320 Winfield Rd Ste 200, Warrenville, Illinois 60555 (630) 857-6033 jcapito@positiveparentingdupage.org www.positiveparentingdupage.org</p>

South Cook County Collaboration for Student and Family Success

Southern Cook County and part of Will County, from Markham to Monee

Established: 2013

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	The Collaboration was established with a mini-grant from ECAP. These suburbs include a lot of high need areas, with resources available but not a cohesive network. The Collaboration especially focuses on the needs of children 0-8 and also includes the needs of youth up to age 21.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The Collaboration meets bi-monthly. There is no dedicated funding and no paid staff.
Partners and Participants	About 20 providers have been involved to date, and there is collaboration with the South Suburban Birth to Five Forum, which is trying to combine efforts. Participants include DCFS, Early Intervention, mental health services, school districts, social workers, day care providers, mental health consultants, and nurses. The Collaboration is seeking to strengthen the engagement of faith-based institutions as well as health care providers.
Primary Activities and Strategies of the Partnership	The Collaboration participated in a Mothers' Day flower event to support child care, and has discussed creating a cyberspace resource.
Communication Mechanisms	The Collaboration uses Yahoogroups and is planning to develop a Facebook presence.
Contact	Felice Hybert SPEED 1125 Division St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708) 481-6101 x3203 FHybert@speed802.org

South Suburban Birth To Five Forum

South Cook County and parts of Will County

Established: 1983

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>The forum originally started with a group of providers who received Prevention Initiative funding from the Early Childhood Block Grant. The group served as an information exchange for these providers. Over the years the focus has shifted, but the original intent is still accomplished. The additional purpose is to discuss how to better serve families in the community and improve recruitment of families and children into each of the programs. The meetings also act as mini in-services for providers where trainers come in and conduct trainings and provide any updates on legislation and any changes within early childhood programming throughout the state. Most of our base is early care and learning, but we also work with Prevention Initiative programs that do home visiting. Now that ISBE has increased the home visiting aspect of the PI grant, we spend time discussing home visiting along with the Birth to 3 curriculums that we use for the programs.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The group meets five times per year and operates on a consensus basis. Dates and locations for the next set of meetings are planned during the May meeting.</p> <p>The coordinator of the forum conducts the following duties; arranging and coordinating the meetings, keeping up with the mailing list, and staffing of the meetings, etc.</p> <p>There is no dedicated funding for the forum. As a result, everything is in-kind and there are no membership charges or dues to be a part of the forum. Rather, the forum asks for volunteers to host and supply snacks and room as well as volunteers for training.</p> <p>The forum does not perform any evaluations.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>There are more than a dozen providers who are a part of the South Suburban Birth to Five Forum. Partners include Governors State University, Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County Inc., Preschool for All three and four year olds as well as the Prevention Initiative providers, school districts, early intervention providers, the Local Interagency Council, Ounce of Prevention, and ISBE (occasional members). The Forum also participates in the South Cook Collaboration.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>A resource was shared with families to increase referrals throughout the South Suburbs. Mini in-services are held during the meetings. The hosting agency makes the arrangements for the presentation or speaker, and a representative from the Ounce of Prevention usually provides state updates. An updated list of members is available during meetings. Funding issues have become a discussion point because of cutbacks from ISBE.</p>

Communication Mechanisms	Most communications are carried out via email.
Contact	Kathey Chvostal South Suburban Birth to Five Forum 1125 Division St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411 (708) 481-6101 x.4215 kchvostal@speed802.org

Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families

The southernmost 15 counties in Illinois: Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Hamilton, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, White and Williamson

Established: 2008

<p>Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership</p>	<p>Between 2006 and 2008, a core group of early education partners from cross sectors (Head Start, DCFS Licensing, Pre-K, Early Intervention CCR&R and other early childhood leaders) worked in partnership with the Southern Illinois Community Foundation to make recommendations as part of its Community Works grant on how to strengthen early care and education in southern Illinois. The area corresponds to the service delivery area for CCR&R and is aligned with what most think of as “southern Illinois.” The process included community focus groups, lengthy and thoughtful discussions, research, and review of data. The end result was clear awareness that the current system (or lack of system) was not working.</p> <p>A recommendation was made to form a Coalition, a “neutral fiscal and coordinating body” to help facilitate the development of a regional, well-coordinated system with a collective and common vision: all children in southern Illinois should have access to quality early childhood experiences with the same opportunities for a happy and healthy life.</p> <p>The Coalition was first established in 2008, but much of the work put on hold as partners were adjusting to the new economic climate in Illinois. Partners re-committed to actively engaging in the Coalition and its work in 2012.</p> <p>The Coalition is dedicated to providing leadership and support that builds strong communities, strengthens families, and promotes children’s success in school and life (focusing on birth to 12). The Coalition’s primary goal is to develop a strong and effective infrastructure that promotes positive outcomes for children and families in southern Illinois. This is accomplished by communicating (issues, needs, programs, and resources), coordinating (partnerships between existing programs and initiatives, collaborations and events) and connecting (children and families with services, programs with resources, etc.).</p> <p>The Coalition’s work focuses on four strategic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Readiness • Strong Families • Child Health • Engaged, Caring, and Supportive communities <p>Currently, the Coalition facilitates five initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Communities to Strengthen Families Network • “The More We Know, The Better They Grow” Child Development Awareness Project • SI Council for Early Childhood Workforce and Professional Development and subcommittee/ task force
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Williamson County Early Learning Task Force • Healthy Children, Brighter Futures, Conference on Children's Health
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The Board of Directors provides fiscal oversight. All other decisions are made by consensus within the committees and/ or Councils associated with the Coalition's initiatives. Further development of the governance structure will happen as part of the strategic planning process. Coalition leaders are currently exploring not for profit status for the organization.</p> <p>Currently, the officers meet quarterly, and members of the Coalition meet regularly to network and work on specific initiatives. Some groups meet monthly, while others meet quarterly.</p> <p>The administrative home for the Coalition is located within the CCR&R offices in the John A. Logan College annex. Currently, there are no paid staff members of the Coalition. CCR&R helps to facilitate the work, and provides space and some staffing support. The current cash budget is \$12,000 per year (\$9,000 in donations, support and co-sponsorship fees from regional agencies, programs and businesses, and \$3,000 from conference revenues). In addition, member organizations provide in-kind support and services.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>The Coalition works with a wide spectrum of schools, child care and early learning programs, agencies and other providers of services to young children and their families. Approximately 113 individuals representing over 67 agencies or programs regularly participate in Coalition Initiatives.</p> <p>Other system participants include the LIC's, County Health Departments, regional healthcare system, Head Starts, Southern Illinois University, and the 4 community colleges. The Coalition seeks to strengthen its engagement with the business and economic development community and is optimistic about these efforts, as it was responsible for providing this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Mildred Warner, for the Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The formal strategic planning process will begin in Fall 2013; activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education campaigns, including "The More We Know, the Better They Grow" campaign, designed to educate parents and others about child development milestones and link them to resources for screening and intervention services. • Parent engagement, including working with CCR&R to co-sponsor an informational website called sifamilies.org that includes resource information, blogs, articles and press releases and a regional events calendar. • Community mapping using the online Pathways system is in development. • Trainings, including the first, and very successful, 2012 Conference on Children's Health. This year's conference will be held on November 1st and

	<p>2nd. Participants include representatives from the early care and education field, K-12 education, health care field, state and local government, and parents. In addition, the Coalition sponsored a summit on professional development in April, called Forging Ahead, Professional Development in a Changing Field. This facilitated dialogue resulted in the formation of the Southern Illinois Council for Early Childhood Workforce and Professional Development, including a task force which will work on building a collaborative and coordinated professional development system throughout the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of services: the Building Communities to Strengthen Families Learning Network, another initiative of the Coalition, brings programs together to network, share ideas, problem solve on specific issues or case studies.
Communication Mechanisms	The Coalition utilizes face to face meetings as the main form of communication. Between meetings, the Coalition utilizes a variety of electronic methods including email, constant contact and social networking on its members' pages.
Contact	<p>Lori Longueville Child Care Resource and Referral 700 Logan College Rd., Carterville, Illinois 62918 618-985-5986 Lori.Longueville@jalc.edu www.jalc.edu/ccrr/coalition</p>

Southside Early Learning Network (S.E.L.N.)

The Englewood, West Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing communities in the City of Chicago

Established: 2012

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>S.E.L.N. is a coalition of community residents, early learning practitioners, social service agencies, governmental agencies and policy advocates concerned with early learning issues in the Englewood, West Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing communities on the South Side of Chicago. The network was created as an extension of a previously formed early childhood collaborative, and has three focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the referral networks of Southside home visiting programs. • Increasing awareness of the importance and availability of early childhood programs. • Improving coordination among agencies and programs to maximize the effect of early childhood initiatives. <p>S.E.L.N is a family-focused collaborative determined to improve outcomes for young children aged 0-5 and their families. To build a pathway for these children to succeed, stakeholders across sectors must be interconnected, coordinated and responsive to children's and families' needs. S.E.L.N. aims to connect home visiting providers and the early childhood community by aligning programming efforts and facilitating a seamless network including universal assessment and comprehensive referral services.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>S.E.L.N. meets bi-monthly, and its current budget is \$80,000 from the MIECHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting) Program. This funding includes support for a Community Systems Development worker to coordinate meetings and activities.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>S.E.L.N. is a broad community systems collaborative that works to coordinate home visiting, early childhood health, maternal child health, childcare, preschool, and non-profit support services and formal institutions. Participants include DHS, DCFS, DFSS, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Public Schools, early care and education providers, home visiting programs, health care providers, social service agencies, and community parents. Several agencies have signed MOAs through S.E.L.N.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>S.E.L.N.'s charge includes a public awareness campaign (press conferences, community events, and outreaching to communities and family members to increase referrals across programs). S.E.L.N. also provides education and training, hosting speakers and facilitating discussions regarding topics such as advocacy and engaging hard to reach populations. Participants include the Ounce of Prevention, Voices for Illinois Children and Illinois Action For Children, which provide information on early childhood policy work. S.E.L.N. is creating a community resource directory and is engaging families in the early childhood conversation.</p>

Communication Mechanisms	S.E.L.N. reaches its members through in-person meetings, conference calls, and emails.
Contact	Veronica Mercado Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) 1436 W. Randolph, 4 th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607 312-226-5141 vmercado@cofionline.org

SPARK (Strong, Prepared, And Ready for Kindergarten)

City of Aurora

Established: 2012

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>SPARK was founded in 2012 by a coalition of leading civic organizations, including Fox Valley United Way, the Dunham Fund, the City of Aurora, and the four school districts that educate the vast majority of Aurora children. Working with these partners, SPARK identifies gaps, facilitates strategic partnerships to maximize resources and coordinate service delivery, and leverages private, local, state and federal funding to create a system of early childhood education support that ensures every child in Aurora is on a trajectory towards success in school and in life.</p> <p>As a catalyst for collaboration and change in Aurora, backed by a significant commitment of support, the Dunham Fund initiated a two-year grant to establish SPARK. This formal collaboration of community, school, and non-profit partners, collectively promotes school readiness skills, including socialization, early literacy, math and vocabulary skills, for all of Aurora's young children aged 0-5. Further, the grant from the Dunham Fund helped position the Aurora area to benefit from future federal and state investment in early childhood, including the \$500 million federal "Race to the Top" Early Childhood Challenge fund.</p> <p>The mission of SPARK's early childhood collaboration is to empower our diverse families and children to attain full success in learning and life by ensuring that all Aurora's young children have equal access to exemplary Early Childhood Care and Education. SPARK's goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all families are aware of the importance of early learning and connecting them with programs and services; • Coordinate efforts among the school districts' early childhood programs, Head Start, child care providers, and other early learning programs to maximize both impact and efficiency; • Support quality improvement in early childhood education and care programs in Aurora; and • Support the expansion of formal and informal early learning opportunities in Aurora.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>SPARK's community collaboration meets monthly and operates through consensus decision making by the Executive Committee. There are Subcommittees for Parent/ Family Outreach, Early Childhood Alignment/ Program Coordination, Quality Improvement in Early Childhood Programs, and Expansion of Early Childhood Programs. A Parent Council provides feedback to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Start-up funding is being provided through a \$250,000 two-year challenge grant from the Dunham Fund. These funds support the full-time Director and a full-time Child and Family Coordinator.</p>

Partners and Participants	Within one year, SPARK is a fully-operating collaboration that includes the City of Aurora; Fox Valley United Way; School Districts 129 (West Aurora), 131 (East Aurora), 204 (Indian Prairie), and 308 (Oswego); Aurora Public Library Foundation; Community 4:12; Family Focus Aurora; Illinois Action For Children; Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center; and Two Rivers Head Start.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SPARK website and Resource Directory ○ Kindergarten Readiness Conversations with parents, grandparents, and guardians ○ Parent Leadership Seminars ○ Parent-Child workshops ○ Week of the Young Child Resource Fair • Professional development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOU with the CCR&R to provide professional development trainings and increase engagement in the statewide Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS) ○ Supporting the Aurora Director's Network and Family Child Care Association. • System-building through taking part in community-wide groups and organizations such as the Parent Educators' Network, Aurora Literacy Coalition, and Institute for Collaboration's Community Leaders Meeting, AOK Network, Compañeros en Salud, and Two Rivers Head Start Strengthening Families. Building connections between school districts, and community-based early childhood programs to increase impact and efficiency.
Communication Mechanisms	Email, website, Facebook, Twitter.
Contact	<p>Trish Rooney SPARK Director 44 East Galena Boulevard, Aurora , IL 60505 (630) 896-4636 ext. 108 trish.rooney@uwfoxvalley.org www.SPARKaurora.org</p>

WeGo Together for Kids

West Chicago School District boundaries

Established: 2005

<p>Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership</p>	<p>In 2005 a Safe School/ Healthy Student federal grant award provided the opportunity to create a coordinated system of care. In 2009, at the successful completion of this grant, District 33 and the Steering Committee recommended maintaining the community collaboration developed over the prior 4 years: WeGo Together for Kids. The Department for Partnerships for Wellness, Safety and Achievement was created to maintain this partnership.</p> <p>The mission of WeGo Together for Kids is to address the health, safety and well-being of students and families through a collaborative, coordinated and comprehensive approach for West Chicago schools and community. WeGo Together for Kids' vision is for all members of the community to support each other in creating an environment for growth, wellness, safety, happiness, and wisdom. The partnership focuses on children from birth to 8th grade.</p> <p>As a diverse group working in the best interests of the community of West Chicago, the partnership agrees that they must:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Build and sustain a productive collaboration by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing effective leadership • Supporting change within and across all systems • Sharing responsibility for learning and safety • Using qualitative and quantitative data to make decisions and direct changes in policy and practice • Creating and sustaining effective services that meet the needs of this diverse and changing community • Seeking financial and other resources assertively and continually <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Develop the whole child by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using culturally sensitive education • Providing prevention and early intervention in the form of education and support <p>To accomplish this mission and achieve the vision, the coalition will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as an agent of change to foster resiliency in children and their families • Create community service opportunities empowering youth to participate in community life in meaningful ways, so they develop a sense of attachment and belonging • Develop resources to help children and their families grow socially and emotionally • Encourage the community to value youth
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Governance, Staffing and Funding	<p>The partnership holds monthly meetings for direct service providers, and the Steering Committee meets quarterly. Other committees meet as needed. The Steering Committee oversees the partnership's work, and decisions are made by consensus.</p> <p>The partnership is housed at the School District. The full-time Director of Partnerships is in the Department of Partnerships for Wellness, Safety, and Achievement and reports directly to the Superintendent. The partnership is also supported by a full-time assistant. These positions are funded by the district in addition to small grants; the annual budget is approximately \$750,000, not including salaries. This is the only such partnership in the State.</p>
Partners and Participants	<p>The partnership includes over 40 providers, including mental health providers, fire department, police department, public libraries, park district, health care providers, literacy programs, nutrition and fitness programs, social service agencies, CCR&R, and Educare. Partner agencies have MOAs.</p>
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>District 33 and the city of West Chicago embrace the community school model as the foundation of WeGo Together for Kids. Partners come together to assure that they meet the needs of the community, judiciously utilize resources, leverage resources, as well as plan and deliver programs together.</p> <p>Using public schools as hubs, community schools bring together many partners to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities. Partners work to achieve these results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are ready to learn when they enter school and every day thereafter. All students learn and achieve to high standards. • Young people are well prepared for adult roles in the workplace, as parents and as citizens. • Families and neighborhoods are safe, supportive and engaged. • Parents and community members are involved with the school and their own life-long learning. <p>The partnership's strategic plan includes activities related to safety, wellness, and social and emotional learning, mental health services, afterschool and summer programming, and resource development. The partnership oversees all of the district's afterschool programming, as well as parent literacy classes, mobile food pantries, four family nights per year, school physicals, immunizations, and flu shot clinics. The partnership also coordinates mental health referrals and produces a service guide. During the monthly service provider meetings, professional development is offered. Evaluations are conducted for each grant-funded program: outside evaluators are contracted for federal grants.</p>
Communication Mechanisms	<p>Email, website.</p>

Contact	Marjory Lewe-Brady Director of Partnerships West Chicago Elementary School District 33 312 E. Forest, West Chicago, IL 60185 630.293.6000 x225 lewe-bradym@wego33.org http://www.wego33.org/wegotgether
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Whiteside Stars

Whiteside County

Established: 2013

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	<p>The CCR&R and Sinnissippi Centers jointly applied for an Early Childhood Action Partnership grant, which aimed to improve the coordination and collaboration of three existing partnerships (Child and Family System of Care Team, Early Childhood Coalition, and the Sauk Valley Local Interagency Council) in Whiteside County, which focused on early childhood system of care efforts and add key missing system representatives (child care, medical and mental health). The project successfully brought two of three collaborations together into one partnership with common goals, vision and mission statements, and to bring child care and medical and EC mental health as key stakeholders. The focus is on prenatal to age five.</p> <p>Vision: Every child and family reaches their full potential. Mission: Service providers will support all children and families as they access and use community services.</p>
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The partnership meets monthly and operates on a consensus basis. There is currently no dedicated funding for the group.
Partners and Participants	Participants include 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care, Head Start, the Local Interagency Council, Children and Family Connections, Early Childhood Mental Health providers, the Bi-County Special Education Cooperative, the Regional Office of Education, medical providers, Communities That Care, Whiteside County Health Department, Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Providers and Healthy Families Illinois. The partnership is seeking to strengthen its engagement of health care providers.
Primary Activities and Strategies	<p>The partnership is currently planning its activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of resource materials; • Trainings with the Children's Research Triangle and on the ASQ and ASQ-SE; • Parent leadership development; • Coordinating referrals to early childhood and home visitation; • Providing technical assistance to MCHAT trainers.
Communication Mechanisms	Face to face and phone meetings, email.
Contact	<p>Pam Wicking CCR&R Director, Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) 155 N. Third St., Suite 300, DeKalb, IL 60115 (800) 848-8727 X 224 pamw@four-c.org</p>

	<p>Amy Adams MS, QMHP Community that Cares Coordinator, Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. 2611 Woodlawn Road, Sterling, Illinois 61081 (815) 625-0013 ext. 120 amyadams@sinnissippi.com</p>
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Willowbrook Corner Coalition

Unincorporated area of Willowbrook, DuPage County

Established: 1992

Focus, Goals and Objectives of the Partnership	The Willowbrook Corner Coalition is a collaboration of organizations working to empower the unincorporated area of the Willowbrook Community. This initiative involves a multi-faceted, multi-agency approach to meeting the identified needs of the community. The coalition works to address the needs of children, families and individuals in the community of all ages.
Governance, Staffing and Funding	The full coalition meets every other month; decisions are made by majority vote and meetings are hosted at the Neighborhood Resource Center. The Leadership Team (Executive Committee) meets every month. The coalition uses a sub-committee structure when addressing special projects or interests that arise. While funding is being sought, there is currently no dedicated funding for the collaborative, and no paid staff.
Partners and Participants	Partners include The Community House, Burr Ridge Police Department, Community Consolidated School District 180, Community Outreach, Downers Grove Township, DuPage County Health Department, HCS Family Services, Hinsdale South High School, Indian Prairie Public Library, Metropolitan Family Services, Positive Parenting DuPage, Teen Parent Connection, United Way Metro Chicago, and YWCA Metro Chicago. There are also representatives from each housing complex in the neighborhood.
Primary Activities and Strategies	Activities include community events, school supply and holiday drives, and working together to bring change to the neighborhood. Current focus is raising awareness of the coalition, bringing more meaningful early childhood experiences to the area, and empowering the residents to increase their life skills by adult classes and programs.
Communication Mechanisms	Most communications are in form of emails, articles on the website, and flyers within the community.
Contact	<p>Casey Amayun, Chair Positive Parenting DuPage (630) 390-0022 camayun@positiveparentingdupage.org</p> <p>Sarah Joynt, Co-Chair Indian Prairie Public Library (630) 887-8760 sarahj@ippl.org http://www.wccoalition.org</p>

APPENDIX

Community Systems Development Subcommittee of the Illinois Early Learning Council's System Integration and Alignment Committee

Survey of Early Childhood Community Partnerships in Illinois

Background

In 2008, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, working with this Subcommittee, developed a list of **Early Childhood Community Partnership Profiles**. These written profiles were developed through phone interviews with a key leader from each Partnership. The purpose of this publication was to inform early childhood providers, families and other stakeholders about the important work going on in community systems, including structures and procedures that could be replicated in other communities. **We invite you to be part of the 2013 edition of this publication, by completing this survey (by phone, in writing, or some combination of the two).** Our goal is to complete this project by June 30, 2013.

Survey Questions

1. **What is the name and address of your collaboration? Who is the contact person?**
2. **When were you established?**
3. **How were you established?**
 - a. What is the focus of your initiative?
 - b. Why was this initiative created?
 - c. If your initiative's focus has changed over time, how has it changed and why?
 - d. What is your current mission, vision and/or purpose statement?
4. **Who is your target population?**
 - a. What is the age of the children being served?
 - b. How many children and/or families do you serve?
 - c. Who are the providers/professionals involved? How many providers do you serve?
5. **Who are your partners?**
 - a. Do you work and/or collaborate with any formal systems? (i.e. LICs, CCR&R's)
 - b. Who are your strongest versus most challenging partners to engage?
 - c. Do you have any written Memoranda of Agreement with other organizations?
6. **What are some of the activities and strategies your group participates in? Such as:**
 - a. Community event planning (i.e. fairs, forums, etc)?
 - b. Public education, messaging and social marketing campaigns?
 - c. Outreach to communities and family members?

- d. Service inventory for the community (community mapping)?
 - e. Community resource book or database?
 - f. Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities? Please specify.
 - g. Increasing referrals across programs?
 - h. Reducing duplication of services?
 - i. Committing resources to family leadership development?
 - j. Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps?
 - k. Conducting and/or coordinating advocacy efforts?
 - l. Providing technical assistance? If so, what does this entail and how is it provided?
 - m. Other activities or strategies?
- 7. Do you have a dedicated staff member or members for this initiative? Why or why not?**
- a. If you do have staff, what are the main duties of the staff member?
- 8. Do you have dedicated funding for this initiative?**
- a. What is your overall approximate budget?
 - b. What are your main funding sources and their approximate amounts?
- 9. How would you describe your main form of communication?**
- a. What are other forms of communication that you use?
 - b. How often does your group meet?
- 10. Which geographic locations do you serve, and why did you choose these locations? (i.e. county, community, city)**
- 11. Do you have a local structure or governance?**
- a. If so, how does it work?
 - b. If not, how are decisions or consensus made by members?
 - c. Do you have an administrative home? Is it housed at another location? Are you an independent non-profit? Board focused?
- 12. Does your group perform any type of evaluation? (i.e. How do you know you have been successful? How well is the network functioning? How well are you achieving your goals?)**
- a. If so, please describe.
 - b. If not, is this something you are planning on doing in the future?
 - c. Do you have a strategic plan?

- 13. Does your partnership have a way to provide input to the statewide early childhood system or policy work?**
- 14. Do you primarily coordinate early care and education programs (i.e. childcare, preschool) or are you broader, including home visiting, early childhood mental health, maternal child health, etc.**
- 15. What would be helpful to support the work that you do?**
- 16. Is there anything else you would like to share about your partnership?**